Villagomez to consult counsel on ethics complaint process. PAGE 5
CPA: We will have to open up borders to travelers. PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 225

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11 new cases; 1 hospitalized

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eleven more individuals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, all of them identified through surveillance testing, bringing the CNMI's total to 380. CHCC also reported that there is one active COVID-19-related hospitalization right now.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. announced yesterday that the new 11

» **3 earlier Guam deaths now considered COVID-related**

cases were confirmed positive through surveillance testing

See CASES on Page 4

Summer P-EBT distribution on Saipan starts tomorrow

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Nutrition Assistance Program of the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs will begin the one-week distribution of Summer Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer coupons, or Summer P-EBT, starting tomorrow, Saturday, to approximately 5,564 families on Saipan.

NAP administrator Walter

See SUMMER on Page 4

Tinian youth lead beautification efforts

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By EDWIN P. ALDAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Edwin P. Aldan is the 14th mayor for the island of Tinian and Aguiguan

The Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan joins Rota and Saipan in supporting the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Marianas Village Pride Campaign.

Story on PAGE 11

'We need to do right by our veterans'

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

That was the oft-repeated message in yesterday's commemoration of Veterans Day in the CNMI, with many of those who spoke at the Court of Honor of the American Memorial Park reiterating the need to listen to the CNMI's veterans and respond to their needs.

Stanley T. Iakopo, execu-

See VETERANS on Page 4

CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T. Iakopo, second from left, shares a photo with CNMI lawmakers, veterans, and their families after laying commemorative wreaths at the American Memorial Park Court of Honor. Also in the photo is Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, and civilian aid to the Secretary of the Army and event keynote speaker Michael S. Sablan.

JOSHUA SANTOS

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:51pm, Nov. 11, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **84.2%**

Days since last community transmission: **1**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	31,659
Fully Vaccinated:	30,019
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,919
Fully Vaccinated:	4,747
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	916

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	18,813	27	18,840
Recovered	16,194	196	16,390
Active	2,365	27	2,192
Deaths	258	0	258

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	369	11	380
Traced via Travel Screening	262	0	262
Traced via Community Screening	107	11	118
Deaths	3	0	3

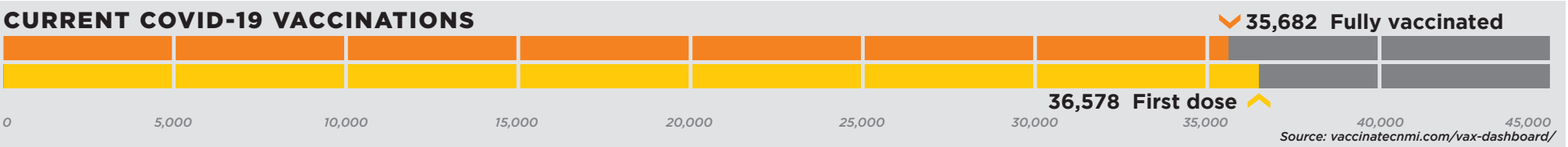
Source: Joint Information Center – Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

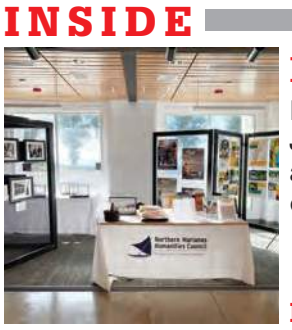
Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE



LOCAL
Bank of Saipan's San Jose branch is hosting a free exhibit on CNMI culture and history.

PAGE 13

OFF THE WALL
A rare two-headed diamondback terrapin turtle is alive and kicking—with all six of its legs.

PAGE 18

LIFE & STYLE
Chris Stapleton was the big winner with six trophies at the Country Music Association Awards.

PAGE 19

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Torres says it's Propst who's politicizing ethics complaint

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres insists it's the other ways around and it is actually Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) himself who is politicizing the ethics complaint filed by Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae against the lawmaker.

Torres said yesterday there is a complaint and when there is a victim of sexual abuse, it's not political.

Vaiagae, who was the NMI Republican Party's candidate in the special election to fill the seat left vacant by the sudden passing of representative Ivan Blanco, had urged House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) last Nov. 9 to conduct an ethics investigation on Propst.

Propst said Tuesday that the complaint "is obviously a distraction" from the NMI Republican Party and Torres on the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations' investigation into the governor's expenditures of public funds and travels.

Propst said Torres' "cronies prefer to distract and destroy and are desperate to change the focus from his horrible record as an inept, incompetent, corrupt governor."

In his comment about Propst's allegations, Torres said yesterday that Propst should go through the process. Torres said Propst and members of the JGO Committee are doing the investigation on him.

"I'm answering this question. It's not about politics, not about GOP, it's individual's action. At the end of the day, we need to protect the victims," he said.

In her letter to Villagomez Tuesday, Sablan cited the allegations that Propst had sex with several underaged women approximately 20 years ago when he was still a teacher at Marianas High School and an employee at the Northern Marianas College.

Sablan attached to her letter a copy of an Office of the Attorney General's investigation and the reported instances of abuse and attempted rape by Propst. Propst has denied the allegations.

Propst also said Tuesday that Torres insists on his innocence yet hires $200,000 worth of lawyers at taxpayer expense.

"He also says he wants us to write to him. Ralph clearly thinks he controls the Legislative Branch. He is clearly delusional," the lawmaker said.

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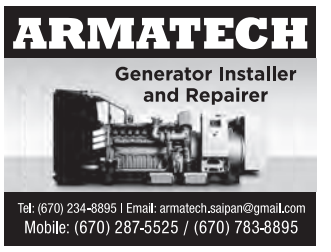
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Clemency pending for man imprisoned for sexual abuse of a minor

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The grant of clemency for a man who is serving a 10-year prison sentence for sexually abusing a 7-year-old back in 2016 remains pending with the CNMI Office of the Governor.

This was learned during a status conference on Price Shoiter's lawsuit against the Department of Corrections and its former and current officials.

According to Leslier Healer, who represented DOC Commissioner Wally Villagomez during the status conference, the clemency application for Shoiter is still pending in the office of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Because the settlement agreement discussed in this suit was contingent on the governor's approval of the plaintiff's application for conditional clemency, Shoiter's lawyer, Michael Dotts, told the court that it is not necessary to resume settlement discussions until the clemency issue is resolved. Dotts asked the court to set a deadline and status conference for the defendants to resolve the clemency issue.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy set a status conference in the case for Dec. 2, at 1:30pm and ordered counsel to meet and discuss the issue on the clemency.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Shoiter, through Dotts, executed a settlement agreement on Feb. 4, 2021, in the lawsuit he filed against DOC and its officers for allegedly denying him medical care while incarcerated. The defendants all signed the settlement agreement by Feb. 11, 2021.

The settlement agreement was contingent on the governor's approval of the plaintiff's application for conditional clemency. (In July 2021, the CNMI Parole Board recommended clemency for Shoiter).

If the governor does not grant the conditional clemency, then pursuant to Section 4.1.3 of the settlement agreement, the settlement becomes "null and void" and the case will be placed back on track for trial. As of Nov. 1, 2021, nearly nine months after the plaintiff signed the settlement agreement, conditional clemency had not been granted.

According to court documents, Shoiter was serving a 10-year prison term for sexually abusing a 7-year-old girl, when he sued Corrections officials for breaching a previous settlement agreement.

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'Irreconcilable differences' lead to Cui losing counsel

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC former chair Cui Li Jie has lost another lawyer, this time due to "irreconcilable differences."

David Lujan of Lujan & Wolff, LLP filed a notice of motion and motion to withdraw as Cui's attorney in the lawsuit of seven construction workers who are alleging labor violations and human trafficking.

Lujan informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that Clyde Lemons, the Lujan & Wolff LLP attorney who represented Cui, now works for the Office of the Guam Alternate Public Defender.

"Irreconcilable difference has arisen between Lujan & Wolff and Ms. Cui. [We are] simply unable to devote sufficient time on Ms. Cui's matter," he said.

Lujan said Cui did not object to the motion of his withdrawal.

Cui retained Lujan's services on June 26, 2021.

According to court documents, last Aug. 26, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found Cui in contempt of court for failing to comply with a previous preservation order regarding the electronically stored information (ESI) that she created or used, including emails, and ESI data sent or received by others on her behalf.

Recently, the judge found Cui in contempt of court, again, this time for failing to provide backups of her ESI and the correct login information for her iCloud account.

To comply with the court order, Cui's lawyer, Joey San Nicolas, said he has subpoenaed the makers of iPhone, Apple Inc. in California.

Currently, the $5.4-million default judgment against IPI in favor of the plaintiffs remain unsatisfied, and this is the reason why all ESI data held by the former IPI chair remain relevant to the proceedings.

The plaintiffs in this case are represented by attorneys Bruce Berline and Aaron Halegua and they include; Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Qingchun Xu, and Duxin Yan.

Man arrested for allegedly assaulting his brother over bush cutting

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has arrested a man who allegedly assaulted his brother because their father told him to bush cut around the house while his brother was inside the house.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho imposed a $2,500 cash bail on Donald Arriola, who allegedly put his brother, Joseph Arriola, in a chokehold for being inside their house on Tinian while he was out doing yard work with his father.

Donald Arriola was remanded back to the Department of Corrections following his bail hearing and was ordered to return to court on Nov. 16, for a preliminary hearing.

He was charged with assault and battery to include domestic violence, disturbing the peace, obstructing justice, interference with a law enforcement officer, and vandalism.

According to court documents, Donald Arriola's mother called DPS on Sunday, Oct. 31, 2021, at about 7:57am, to request for police assistance at her home in Marpo Heights on Tinian.

At the scene, the father told police that when he told his son, Donald Arriola, to bush cut around the house while he raked, Donald Arriola got angry and started to break things in their house.

Arriola's mother told the officers that her husband and son were outside doing yard work when she heard Donald Arriola shouting and complaining about his brother, Joseph Arriola, sleeping in.

The mother said Donald Arriola's father got mad at him, because Joseph Arriola did the yard work the day before.

After a while, as Joseph Arriola was eating at the dining table, Donald Arriola punched the sliding door when he saw Joseph Arriola and came inside the house. Donald Arriola allegedly threw Joseph Arriola's food on the floor, as well as the things on the kitchen counter top and grabbed Joseph Arriola and put him in a head lock.

Donald Arriola also allegedly picked up an ashtray and was going to hit Joseph Arriola with it, but did not. That's when the mother called the police.

As police were talking with Donald Arriola's parents, police could hear him shouting and yelling inside the house. When police tried to arrest Donald Arriola, he allegedly pulled away.

As he was being transported to the police station, Donald Arriola allegedly started yelling, saying he was going to burn the house down.

CASES

From Page 1

on Nov. 9, and that all have been isolated and are being monitored.

Since Oct. 28, there have been 89 new cases of COVID-19 in the CNMI: 68 identified through contact tracing, 14 through community-based testing, and seven through travel testing. Also, 428 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Nov. 9 comprising travel and surveillance testing, CHCC said.

In related news, the Joint Information in Guam announced Wednesday that three deaths earlier this year are now considered COVID-related. These deaths were previously unreported and occurred in March, September, and October respectively.

The 256th COVID-19-related death in Guam was an unvaccinated 90-year-old male with underlying health conditions. He tested positive for COVID-19 on Feb. 8 this year and was pronounced dead at the Guam Memorial Hospital on March 10.

The 257th was an unvaccinated 74-year-old female with underlying health conditions. She tested positive on Sept. 18 and was pronounced dead at the Guam Regional Medical City on Sep. 30.

The 258th was an unvaccinated 83-year-old female with underlying health conditions. She tested positive on Sept. 11 and was pronounced dead at GRMC on Oct. 23.

The JIC also announced Wednesday a correction to the island's 252nd COVID-19-related death. The JIC originally reported Tuesday that the individual was unvaccinated, but was notified later that the individual was vaccinated.

Guam's 252nd COVID-19-related death was a vaccinated 72-year-old male with underlying health conditions. he tested positive for COVID-19 on Nov. 1 and was pronounced dead at the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam on Nov. 5.

In the CNMI, CHCC's Communicable Disease Investigation/ Inspection team has already reached out to those who were in closest contact with the 11 new positive cases and that the team will continue its efforts "until all probable cases are identified and tested."

CHCC also said its contact tracers have reached out to contacts who are deemed high risk, and that "the associated risk of infection depends on the level of exposure, which will, in turn, determine the type of monitoring." CHCC added that establishing the level of exposure can be difficult and requires investigation.

For individuals in the community experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, and new loss of taste or smell, CHCC asks those concerned to see their healthcare providers or call the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at 670-233-2067.

SUMMER

From Page 1

Macaranas said yesterday that approximately 284 families on Tinian and 239 families on Rota will also be receiving the Summer P-EBT coupons.

Summer P-EBT is an extension of the Pandemic-Electronic Benefits Transfer, or P-EBT, for school year 2020-21. P-EBT is a federal program that provides food stamp benefits to school-aged children who lost access to school meals because their school was closed or operating with reduced in-person attendance due to COVID-19 in school year 2020-21.

Macaranas

P-EBT provides the Marianas an estimated $11.1 million. The Summer P-EBT, on the other hand, is estimated at $5.5 million, Macaranas said.

NAP and the Public School System's Child Nutrition Program are partnering to administer the program.

Macaranas said the distribution schedule for Tinian and Rota will be facilitated by the DCCA offices on both islands.

For Saipan, the distribution will begin tomorrow, Saturday, and continue until Nov. 20, from 8am to 6pm, via drive-thru at the NAP Office in As Lito.

The distribution will be issued based on the last name of the head of household who was designated as the parent or legal guardian on their children's school record.

The last day of distribution, Nov. 20, a Saturday, is designated as "Open Day," during which households on Saipan who weren't able to pick up their benefits on their scheduled date may do so.

Macaranas said identification will be required to be presented upon receiving the benefit.

He said households will be required to provide a valid photo identification such as a driver's license, passport, municipal ID, U.S. permanent resident card, or others. He said the ID must have a valid date or not expired and that the identity of the parent or legal guardian will be verified against the list of eligible households.

Households who received the regular school year 2020-21 P-EBT benefits will not be required to submit an application for Summer P-EBT.

Macaranas said, however, that households who did not participate during the regular P-EBT will be required to submit an application for the Summer-P-EBT.

Majority of the households who received the P-EBT coupons for school year 2020-21 will receive Summer P-EBT. Macaranas said this includes households with high school children who graduated in SY 2020-21.

However, he said, any child who dropped out of school before the end of the school year 2020-21 will not be eligible for Summer P-EBT.

The requisite for Summer P-EBT coupons require that the child was actively enrolled in school during the last month of SY 2020-21.

NAP opened the application period for Summer P-EBT beginning Oct. 18, 2021, and will end on Nov. 30, 2021.

Applications that were submitted on Oct. 18 and 19 and have been considered approved by NAP will be included with the distribution during Nov. 13 to 20, 2021.

Macaranas said approved applications will be posted on the NAP's website: https://cnminap.gov.mp.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

VETERANS

From Page 1

tive officer of the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs, advocated for accountability in the CNMI in how it supports the Commonwealth's veterans. Iakopo said he supports legislation that, among other things, would mandate the government and private sector to provide veterans with incentives they are eligible to receive and/or veterans preference eligibility.

"Each and every one of us should be held accountable, including myself, to our veterans who fought for us and our rights [for] many days, nights, and years. We should be held accountable and give back to our veterans who live today and remember those who did not. How should we be held accountable? It starts with our actions," said Iakopo. "I would like to see a new culture of accountability here in the CNMI. Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today. We need to do right by our veterans across the board no matter the status or circumstances they're in. Our veterans brought home physical pains and emotional scars. They should be treated with the utmost dignity and respect when they come home."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres agreed with Iakopo that the CNMI and its leaders need to do more for its veterans. In line with this, town hall meetings to allow veterans to speak and meet with Iakopo and the OVA are now in the works, Torres said. There will be a meeting for every village, villages in Rota and Tinian included, he added.

"[There will be notices for] town hall meetings for every village, including Rota and Tinian, to listen to all of our veterans and their families. ...Moreso, if there is any veteran who cannot make it to the town hall meetings...you call the director Stanley [Iakopo] and he will make time to come to your house and visit you," said Torres. "I appreciate the freedom that we enjoy every day, and [I] acknowledge all the sacrifices. But it is true that we [have to] do more."

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said he intends to work with Iakopo and the CNMI Legislature to ensure that the CNMI's veterans are done right by CNMI leadership.

"With so much tension and focus on things that divide us, it becomes too easy to overlook something that should unite us. Our gratitude [goes to] the sacrifices of our veterans and those that are presently in the Armed Forces," Palacios added.

Yesterday's keynote speaker was Michael S. Sablan, who is the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, or CASA. He was appointed to that position in August this year. CASAs, a vital part of the Army, promote good relations between the Army and the public and advise the Secretary of the Army on regional issues.

There was also a commemorative laying of wreath at the Court of Honor, a U.S. Air Force C-17 flyover, and music performed by the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band. Posting and retiring of the U.S. and CNMI colors were conducted by a Department of Public Safety color guard.

Villagomez to consult counsel on ethics complaint process

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) said Wednesday that he wants to educate himself on the process on how to deal with the ethics complaint filed against Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) by Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae, who is a counselor and advocate for the rights of abused women.

This developed as House Vice Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) said yesterday that he respects Villagomez and should he ask to meet him on the issue he stands ready to assist him in any way he can.

When asked by the reporters Wednesday about Vaiagae's ethics complaint, Villagomez said there is a process to go through and that he hasn't had a chance yet to meet with their legal counsel. He said they are down to one legal counsel as the other lawyer had gone on travel for work.

"The load that he carries it's pretty tight," said Villagomez, referring to their legal counsel.

In her letter to Villagomez Tuesday, Vaiagae attached a copy of an Office of the Attorney General's memorandum detailing its investigation over allegations that Propst had sex with several underaged women approximately 20 years ago when he was still a teacher at Marianas High School and an employee at Northern Marianas College. Propst has denied the allegations.

Villagomez

Villagomez said they cannot just jump to conclusion, with serious allegations like this on both ends—the alleged victims and Propst.

The speaker said he also wants to meet with Attao, who was the House speaker in the last legislature.

On Sept. 8, 2020, Propst resigned as House Precinct 1 representative, 20 days after a private citizen asked then-House Speaker Attao that Propst be investigated for alleged sexual misconduct when he was still an MHS teacher.

Propst became a Precinct 1 representative again after being overwhelmingly voted into office without even campaigning during the November 2020 election.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, Attao said yesterday that no Ethics Committee was formed during his term as speaker of the 21st Legislature, regarding the complaint against Propst after Propst resigned from his position on Oct. 1, 2020.

Attao said the Ethics Committee shall consist of eight members, divided equally between the minority and majority blocs.

"The last time I believe anything close to an Ethics Committee was formed was in the 17th Legislature and before that, if I'm not mistaken, in the 13th Legislature," he said.

CHCC's LaPonsie answers parents' questions about kid COVID-19 vaxx

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Parents, students, teachers, and other stakeholders of CNMI Public School System finally got a chance to ask their questions about COVID-19, pediatric vaccines, and other related topics during a virtual meeting last Tuesday with Dr. Sadie LaPonsie, who. is chair of pediatrics at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

LaPonsie said Wednesday in an email message that having an open dialogue on COVID-19 vaccines for children was the goal of the virtual meeting and that she wanted to provide all necessary resources to parents to aid them in making an informed decision.

LaPonsie added that she wanted to make clear that the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective, and that Pfizer's vaccine has gone through rigorous testing and review. For those with additional questions and concerns, LaPonsie advised speaking with your health care provider or pediatrician.

"This meeting was a chance for parents to learn more about the pediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, and to ask any question they may have regarding the vaccine. I understand that many parents have concerns when it comes to the safety of their children and vaccines, and I wanted to be available to help them make an informed decision," said LaPonsie.

LaPonsie touched on several topics during the meeting, including how COVID-19 vaccines work, how health officials have come to know that the pediatric doses of COVID-19 vaccines are safe, whether or not COVID-19 vaccines were rushed, the side effects of the vaccine, myocarditis, and basic information on media literacy in the age of misinformation.

"The main point I wanted to stress is that the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective. It was rigorously tested and reviewed, and more than 11 million adolescents ages 12-17 have already received the COVID-19 vaccine. If parents have questions about how to protect their children from COVID-19, about the vaccines, or about myocarditis, I encourage them to speak to their health care provider or pediatrician", she added.

According to an online definition from the Mayo Clinic, myocarditis is an inflammation of the heart muscle. This inflammation can reduce a heart's ability to pump blood, and cause rapid or abnormal heart rhythms.

In the context of COVID-19 vaccines for the youth, myocarditis recently became a point of concern as a possible side effect of younger age groups receiving COVID-19 vaccines.

As of Nov. 5, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that cases of myocarditis were reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. The CDC also said that vaccinated individuals, notably adolescent males and young adults, contracted myocarditis after receiving a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, more often after the second dose of either vaccine and usually within several days after vaccination.

The CDC added, however, that "most patients with myocarditis or pericarditis who received care responded well to medicine and rest and felt better quickly" and that "patients can usually return to their normal daily activities after their symptoms improve."

Should you and/or your child get vaccinated? The CDC still says yes. Now recommending that children aged 5 to 11 receive their pediatric Pfizer vaccines and continuing to recommend individuals aged 12 and older to get their vaccines, the CDC states that "the known risks of COVID-19 illness and its related, possibly severe complications, such as long-term health problems, hospitalization, and even death, far outweigh the potential risks of having a rare adverse reaction to vaccination, including the possible risk of myocarditis or pericarditis."

The CDC and its partners continue to monitor reports of myocarditis and pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccination, the CDC said. Active monitoring includes "reviewing data and medical records and evaluating the relationship to COVID-19 vaccination", the CDC added.

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CPA: We will have to open up borders to travelers

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the new international air policy that was recently implemented for the entire United States, including the CNMI, the Commonwealth Ports Authority says the CNMI has to expect that it will open up its borders to international travelers soon.

According to CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, the announcement and change in rules by the U.S. Department of State is a clear indication that the United States' borders are open to travelers, provided that they are fully vaccinated.

"This should not come as a surprise to anyone. The CNMI has reached a certain percentage of vaccination level where we have to expect that we will have to open up. The message from the U.S. President and our governor has always been get vaccinated for our personal and our community's protection so that we can start resuming a new normal way of life," she said.

The CPA chair said the CNMI has been preparing for this since it closed its borders over a year ago.

"We have been preparing for this day since the day we shut down. At this point, It's not about the number of positives. It's about being vaccinated and continuing the safety practices. We are going to have to open up. We are going to have to join the rest of the world opening up. We are the best in the nation in terms of response, let's be the best in the nation opening up," she said.

King-Hinds said what this new policy essentially means for the CNMI is that it can start thinking of allowing more airline carriers to enter the CNMI.

"The new travel requirements are not within the purview of CPA's authority. They are determined by our federal partners, in consultation with health authorities to ensure the safety of the traveling public and the community in general. What this means for CPA specifically is the potential for more air carriers requesting to come to the CNMI. We have multiple carriers requesting to come. CPA does not have the authority to deny such requests provided that the carriers meet all DOT, FAA and CPA regulatory requirements," she said.

According to the U.S State Department's website, starting last Nov. 8, foreign national air travelers to the United States will be required to be fully vaccinated and to provide proof of vaccination status prior to boarding an airplane to fly to the United States, with limited exceptions. This means foreign nationals are now required to provide their COVID-19 vaccination record before boarding airlines headed for the entire United States.

The State Department website said the new travel policy is stringent, consistent across the globe, and guided by public health.

The new policy means that if you are not a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, lawful permanent resident, or traveling to the United States on an immigrant visa, you will need to show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before you travel by air to the United States from a foreign country.

Some categories of noncitizen, nonimmigrants are exempted from this requirement but, nevertheless, all air passengers aged 2 or older, regardless of citizenship or vaccination status, must show a negative result of a COVID-19 viral test or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 before they board any flight to the United States.

To further strengthen protections, unvaccinated travelers—whether U.S. citizens, LPRs, or the small number of excepted unvaccinated foreign nationals—will now need to show documentation of a negative viral test from a sample taken within one day of travel to the United States.

Fully vaccinated U.S. citizens and LPRs are not exempted from the negative test requirement. However, they are allowed to provide a negative test from within three days prior to boarding their flight.

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Babauta: Subpoena does not implicate Castro in his capacity as chief of staff

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House of Representatives Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) has clarified that the subpoena they issued to Office of the Governor's chief of staff William "Wil" Mendiola Castro does not implicate him in his current official capacity.

This developed as Babauta said yesterday that barring any setbacks with COVID-19, they will proceed with the scheduled JGO hearing this Tuesday, Nov. 16. Two legislative staff have tested positive for the virus.

Babauta said the JGO Committee's inquiry is limited to Castro's personal knowledge of certain requests for reimbursement and travel claims made by Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres during a period preceding Castro's appointment as chief of staff.

She clarified the scope of the JGO's subpoena in her email Wednesday to Torres' Washington D.C.-based counsel, Ross Garber, and the Office of the Governor's counsel Gilbert Birnbrich.

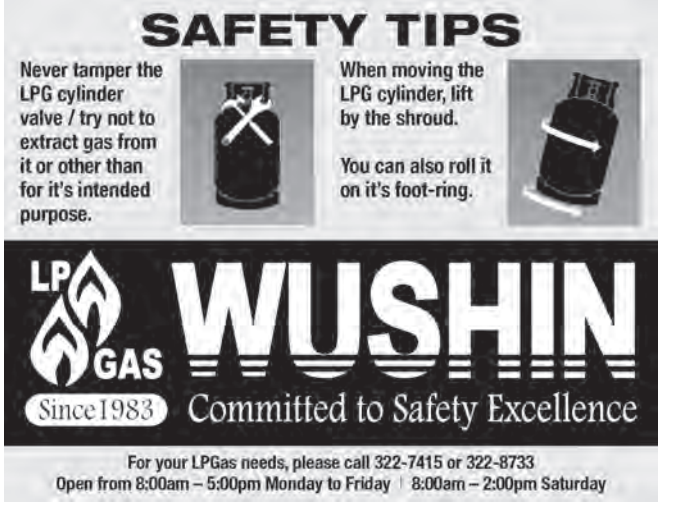
Babauta's email was in response to Birnbrich's and Garber's letters to her on Nov. 5 and 10, 2021.

The JGO is investigating Torres' expenditures of public funds and travels.

House sergeant-at-arms Pedro O. Towai served last week the subpoena commanding Castro to appear and testify before the JGO on Nov 19 at 10:30pm.

Castro, who was just recently hired as chief of staff, was commanded to testify about reimbursement for meals, hostings, and gifts claimed by or on behalf of Torres and/or first lady Diann Torres. He will also be asked to testify about travel and meetings conducted or claimed by or on behalf of Torres and/or Diann Torres, including but not limited to reimbursement requests.

The JGO also issued subpoenas to three police officers who are assigned as personal security detail with the governor and his wife.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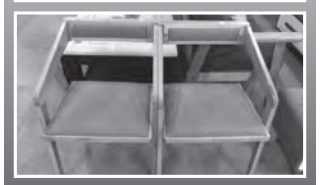

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Bill to protect gov't whistleblowers is introduced in House

Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan) has introduced a bill to enact a whistleblower protection provision for government employees who report prohibited personnel practices.

In a press statement yesterday, Staffler said her House Bill 22-83 is a response "to the years and numerous reports of retaliation and intimidation reported by constituents who work in the CNMI government."

The bill's co-sponsors include House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), floor leader Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), and Reps. Ed Propst (D-Saipan), Tina Sablan (D-Saipan), Sheila Babauta (D-Saipan), Celina Babauta (D-Saipan), Denita Yangetmai (D-Saipan), Corina Magofna (D-Saipan), Vicente Camacho (D-Saipan), Donald Manglona (Ind-Saipan), and Richard Lizama (D-Saipan).

"Through this legislation, my colleagues and I in the House leadership aim to raise the bar in public service employment and send a clear message that political retaliation and intimidation in our government is unacceptable," Staffler said.

She said people should be able to report wrongdoing in government without fear of reprisal or retribution. "House Bill 22-83 protects government employees who do the right thing, such as reporting waste, fraud, abuse, corruption or dangers to public health and safety to someone who is in a position to uphold accountability," she added.

House Bill 22-83 expands existing whistleblower protections in Commonwealth law for the reporting of financial crimes, to include the reporting of unethical or illegal activity in government, such as coercion to participate in political activity, transferring as a form of punishment, implementing blanket non-disclosure agreements, and obstructing a person's right to compete for employment.

Staffler

The bill further expands civil penalties to those in government who are in supervisory roles who engage in prohibited personnel activities. Any person found in violation shall be liable to pay civil penalties ranging from $1000 to $10,000, and shall be terminated immediately.

Moreover, although Commonwealth law currently provides compensation incentives for those who report fraud, waste, or abuse in the collection or expenditure of public funds, there is no actual mechanism for payment. House Bill 22-83 fixes that issue, by providing that mechanism so that government whistleblowers may receive their rewards.

The full text of the bill is available at https://cnmileg.net/documents/house/hse_bills/22/HB22-83.pdf or bit.ly/CNMIWhistleBlower. This bill has been assigned to the Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee for review, and public comments may be submitted to JGO Committee chair Rep. Celina Babauta at repcelinababauta@gmail.com or delivered to her office at the CNMI Legislature on Capital Hill. ***(PR/ Saipan Tribune)***

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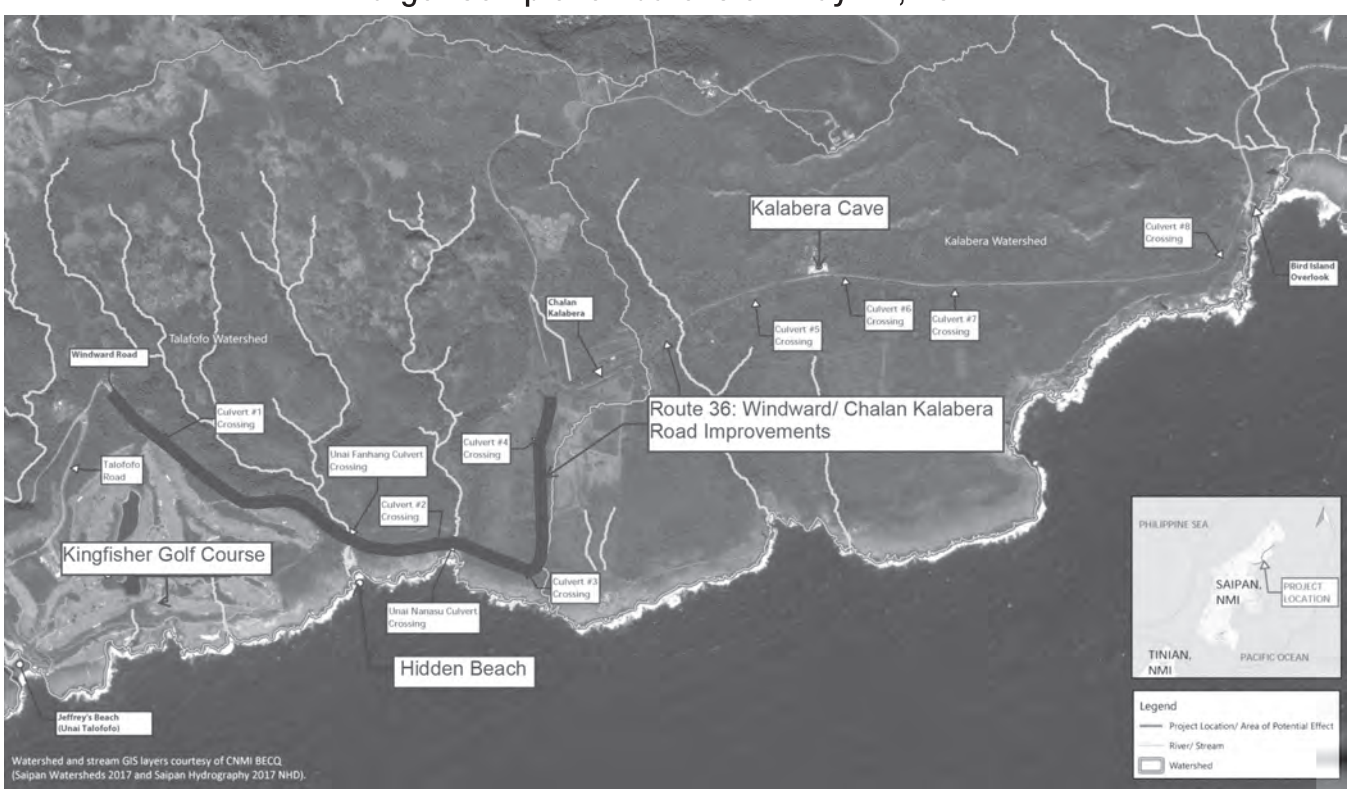

$50K bail set for man accused of sexually assaulting girlfriend

The Superior Court has imposed a $50,000 cash bail on a man accused of repeatedly sexually assaulting his girlfriend for months.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan signed the arrest warrant for Aberick Taday Taman, 19, last weekend with a bail amount of $50,000 based on information gathered by police investigators.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Dre Pangelinan said Taman was charged with assault, domestic violence, assault and battery, sexual assault in the first degree, false arrest, interfering with a domestic violence report, strangulation, vandalism, and disturbing the peace.

According to police reports, police received a 911 call last Sunday, Nov. 7, at approximately 4:34pm about an assault and battery incident in Susupe.

At the scene, the victim told police officers about the physical and sexual abuse she had endured over the course of a few months at the hands of her boyfriend, Taman.

Police arrested Taman on Capitol Hill on Monday, Nov. 8, at around 5:21pm, during which Taman allegedly admitted to the accusations. ***(PR/ Saipan Tribune)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Vaccine mandates are essential to stopping COVID-19

COVID-19 case numbers, which had been steadily falling in the U.S. since the delta variant crested in September, have again plateaued. The decline from more than 200,000 daily cases has been welcome, but why have the numbers now stalled in the 70,000s? Perhaps it's the colder weather driving people indoors, in closer contact with others, sometimes unmasked.

But here's another crucial factor: Less than 60% of the U.S. population has been fully vaccinated. More people need to get their shots as soon as possible.

This is the simple reason President Joe Biden is right to stand by his vaccine requirements. One of them, a mandate that 4 million federal workers be vaccinated, comes into force on Nov. 22. Another, a Labor Department rule that companies with 100 or more employees see that they are either vaccinated or tested weekly, has a deadline of Jan. 4, 2022. (This requirement will apply to about 84 million people, more than 26 million of whom are not yet vaccinated.) Also on Jan. 4, everyone who works at a hospital, nursing home or other health facility that receives payments from Medicare or Medicaid—about 17 million workers at 76,000 facilities—needs to be vaccinated.

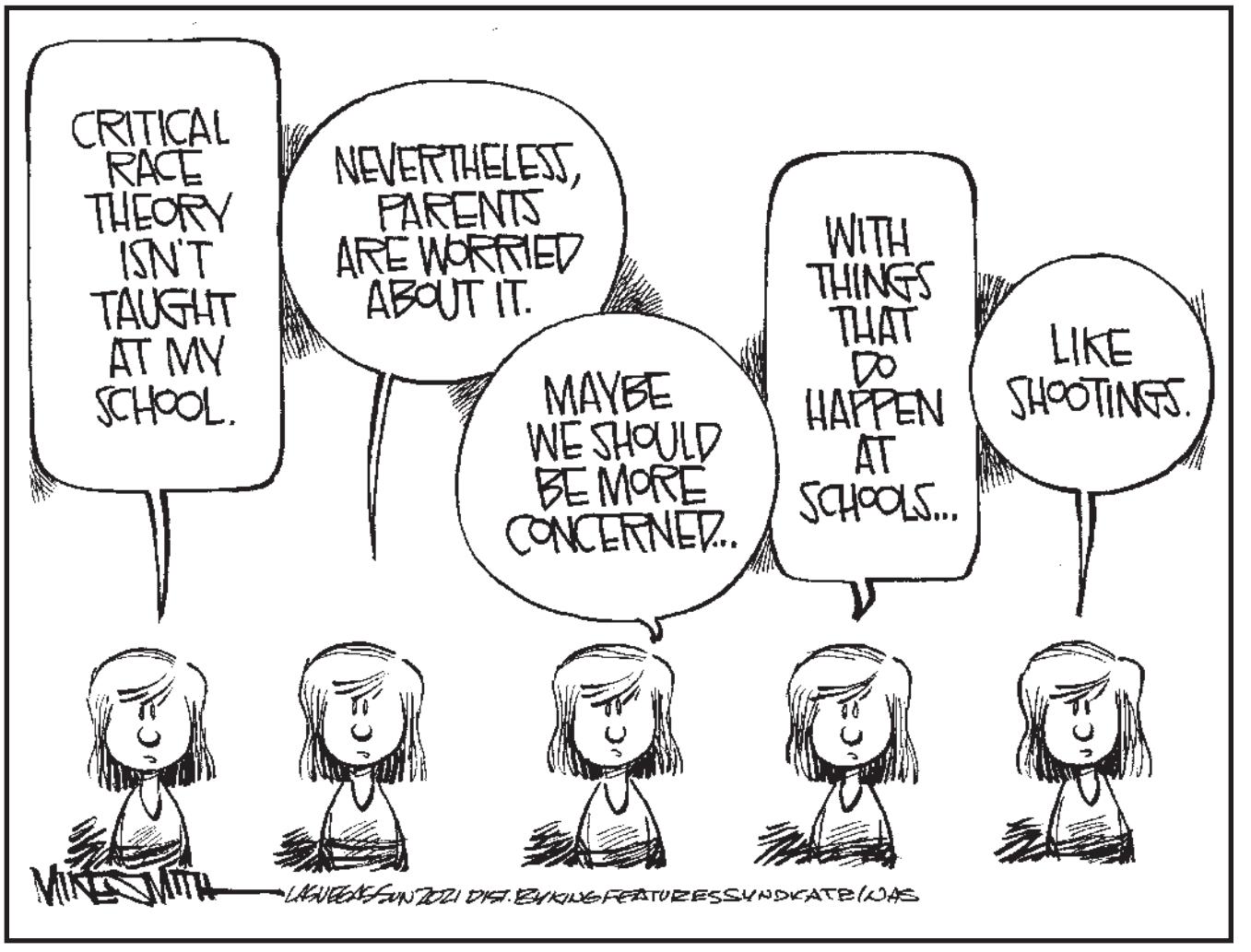
Republicans aim to block these rules. More than a dozen state attorneys general filed suit on Friday, arguing that the president lacks the authority to issue vaccine requirements for businesses and that, if they come into effect, they will make it harder for companies in their states to hire people. (A federal appeals court has temporarily halted rollout of the rules.) Meanwhile, more than 40 senators say they'll try to block the rules under the Congressional Review Act, even though they plainly lack the votes to prevail.

This resistance is deeply misguided. Vaccine mandates are nothing new in America, and the COVID-19 mandates imposed so far by companies and states have brought a significant increase in vaccinations. They're the reason that 92% of New York City's municipal workers have had at least one shot, and 94% of New York state hospital employees are inoculated. A very small share of employees resist vaccination to the point of losing their jobs. According to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation survey, only 5% of unvaccinated workers say they've gone to that extreme.

Opponents call mandates an imposition on liberty or, in the words of Texas Governor Greg Abbott, an "assault on private business." It's true they're an imposition. Highway speed limits and smoking restrictions are also impositions. The point is, they're amply justified. Public health requires that people refrain from needlessly endangering others.

Some resisters argue that they should be allowed to skip the shots because they've already had COVID-19. It's true that an initial infection leaves people with some immunity against reinfection. But this protection is weaker than vaccination provides. A recent analysis of data from 187 hospitals found the odds of contracting COVID-19 were 5.5 times higher for previously infected (but unvaccinated) people than for people

See VACCINE on Next Page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America's beautiful tapestry...of personalities

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg Opinion

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include* Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero.

In my travels around the U.S., I am often struck by America's regional differences. I don't mean people's politics, cuisine or customs. I am referring to their personalities. Are some parts of the country more outgoing than others? More conscientious? More neurotic?

We all have our intuitions about such questions. But a more systematic look at the data has just been published. And the answer is clear: Yes, American personalities do differ by region.

The researchers considered five personality traits, taken from what is called Five Factor Personality Theory: extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, emotional stability (there is a related concept of "neuroticism") and openness. Those concepts have formal definitions in social psychology research, but for our purposes the common-sense meanings of those words are close enough.

Let's consider extraversion. The least extroverted states in the country are Maine, Washington and Oregon, which fits my stereotype that a disproportionate number of the residents of those states are seeking some kind of isolation. Wisconsin has the most extroverted population, with Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska coming in next. The Midwest seems to be a friendly and outgoing place. That is to me also no huge surprise, though I would not have picked Wisconsin to be No. 1. The southern states come in at about average, while New Mexico, Nevada, Vermont and Montana do not measure as very extroverted, relative to the rest of the country.

So far so good: My basic intuitions have been validated with data.

How about agreeableness? The Southeast measures as the clear winner, with pockets of the Dakotas and Minnesota also high on the scale. Again, that is consistent with my expectations. Wyoming, Nevada and the area surrounding northern Texas are clustered at the bottom of the agreeableness scale. (By the way, agreeableness isn't necessarily a good thing. Data on labor market outcomes, for instance, suggest that more agreeable men suffer an earnings penalty; perhaps they do not bargain as hard.)

The data on conscientiousness run counter to stereotype. My expectation was that the Midwest would win out here, but the Southeast ranks the highest. Coastal California fares poorly, as do scattered parts of the Midwest and West, again non-obvious or unexpected results. If it restores your faith in stereotypes, the area surrounding New Orleans, perhaps the most licentious city in the South, also rates low in conscientiousness.

Overall, the two strongest correlates of conscientiousness were Republican share of the vote, and share of married individuals in the population.

When it comes to emotional stability, fans of "The Sopranos" or "Seinfeld" will not be surprised: The Northeast, stretching down through Appalachia, ranks the lowest by a noticeable amount. There's a reason George Costanza and Tony Soprano fit right in.

As for openness, the West measures as more open than the East, which again seems to correspond to the stereotype. The exception is Florida, which rates as very open, and the northern Midwest comes in last. Perhaps they are too busy being extroverted (see above) to be open to new experiences! Among the factors predicting openness: share of foreign-born citizens, creative industries and share of the population with college degrees.

Predictions and correlations work better at the county level than the state level, which implies that most states are diverse places; San Francisco and Death Valley are quite distinct, and all states have numerous divisions and subcultures. That's one reason why I don't see the breakup of the United States as likely anytime soon.

People can and do debate just how much weight to place on the results of personality psychology. These ratings of personality characteristics rely on potentially unreliable individual self-reports.

Yet these measured characteristics have predictive power in a variety of circumstances, and the core results of this literature replicate. As a case in point, I would describe myself as an introvert, and most of those who know me would agree. Whatever our self-deceptions may be, most of us have at least partial awareness of our own personalities and are willing to present them as such.

Overall, I view this data as a hopeful sign for the nation. We Americans are different, but not too different. Just about every region of the country has its virtues. Some regional stereotypes seem to be true, which suggests a degree of self-awareness. At the same time, Americans seem to be able to go beyond those stereotypes in significant ways.

But these are just the impressions of an emotionally unstable New Jersey native. What do you think? If you live in the Southeast, as I now do, you may be especially likely to agree with me.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tinian youth lead beautification efforts to promote village and island pride

TOGETHER, WE CAN

By EDWIN P. ALDAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Edwin P. Aldan is the 14th mayor for the island of Tinian and Aguiguan. He has served the Marianas for several years as a police officer, a House representative, and a member of the Tinian Municipal Council. As Tinian mayor, he is committed to lead the mission to foster safety, cleanliness, and equal opportunity for all its residents.

The Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan joins Rota and Saipan in supporting the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Marianas Village Pride Campaign, which I believe goes beyond beautification and encourages all residents to take deeper ownership and pride in our beautiful islands.

On Tinian, the student government and youth advisory panel of Tinian Elementary School have committed to the MVP Campaign by adopting the sidewalks and curbs around the school, library, and hospital. I am genuinely proud of the leadership these young role models are exhibiting for their peers and community to emulate. They have stepped up to the plate to beautify and upkeep our village facilities. It is this type of proactive attitude that inspires and instills pride in our islands. I am confident that our island's future will be in great hands because our youth are starting to take ownership of leading our community at such an early age.

I have assigned our External Affairs and Event Planning Division to help promote the MVP Campaign and coordinate with our partnering agencies to ensure full participation from our community. We are looking at how various agencies can participate in the Adopt-A-Median program and the bus stop beautification and Christmas decorating contests. For the past few years, Tinian has showcased its creativity through Christmas ornaments displays, and I am confident that we can still do the same or better as we participate in the MVP Campaign.

We are excited about the Village Flag Art Contest, too. Tinian is known for numerous other features and icons such as the *donne' sali*, Tinian monarch (*chichirika*), latte stones, Taga Beach, atomic bomb pits, Blow Hole, and the Spondylus shell. These icons highlight Tinian's unique features and showcase our history. However, with our students' talent and creativity, I am sure there are many more icons that will feature in their designs that represent the identity of our community.

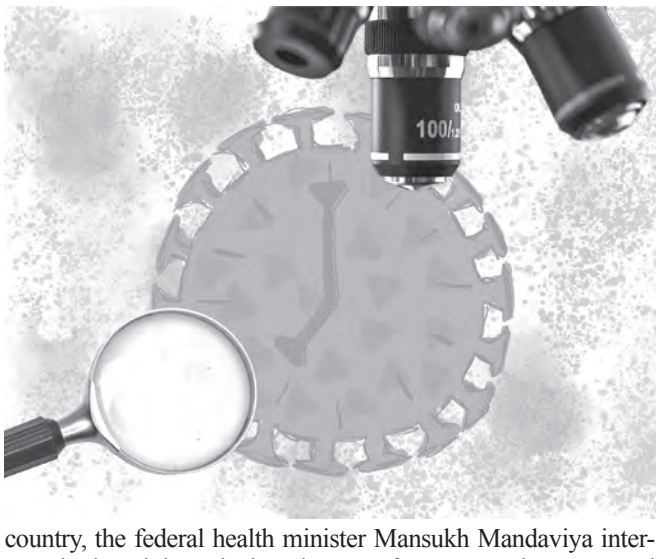
The work we will complete under the MVP Campaign will complement the festivals we offer to visitors and help provide safe and convenient facilities for everyone who call Tinian home. Through the transformations, Tinian will further promote itself as the must-visit festival island in the Marianas—a destination that offers visitors authentic cultural experiences in a safe, clean, and vibrant environment.

Our students have taken the lead in joining the MVP Campaign, and I am encouraging others to step up, too. As we continue to find proactive ways to beautify our islands, I would like to remind everyone that the responsibility for the cleanliness, maintenance, and upkeep of our community cannot solely be placed on the government; it begins with each of us. We must be responsible for our actions. If we want to keep our islands beautiful and clean for all to enjoy, then we must pitch in.

Beautifying and keeping our islands clean must begin with a change in attitude from our people. Taking part in the MVP Campaign is the first step to bringing about that change. Let's empower each other to make Tinian the best it can be for ourselves and the future generations.

For more information about the Marianas Village Pride Campaign, visit the GCEA website at cnmieconomy.com, engage on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

Is India really ready for the next big outbreak?



By RUTH POLLARD
Bloomberg Opinion

Ruth Pollard is a columnist and editor with Bloomberg Opinion. Previously she was South and Southeast Asia Government team leader at Bloomberg News. She has reported from India and across the Middle East and focuses on foreign policy, defense and security.

Did India's political leaders learn anything from the deadly second wave of COVID-19? Hospitals in the capital, New Delhi, are once again overwhelmed with patients and the health authorities don't have beds for them. The disease has changed—dengue, not coronavirus—but the dysfunction remains the same.

For the country that wants to be the pharmacy to the world, its own health system is notoriously bad. With some of the lowest government spending of any nation, public hospitals are overcrowded and inaccessible. The multitude of private facilities are out of reach for most citizens. India's courts were forced to intervene earlier this year to address the dangerous inequities in hospital oxygen supplies, while state and federal authorities fought among themselves over procurement and citizens died in the back of auto rickshaws gasping for breath.

The pandemic pushed many into serious debt to access health care, with families forced to sell assets, jewelry and even livestock to pay hospital bills. Even before COVID, India's out-of-pocket medical expenses were among the world's highest, accounting for about 60% of total health expenditure. Public health spending is less than 2% of gross domestic product, compared to 5.4% in China and a global average of nearly 10%, according to World Bank data. Researchers at Azim Premji University found the virus pushed an additional 230 million people—more than the entire population of Brazil—below the poverty line, with worrying increases in malnutrition and hunger.

The first warning signs that it would be a bad dengue season came in late August, when a hospital in Firozabad in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh reported a surge in deaths from a "mystery fever." But it was no mystery; it was mostly dengue and scrub typhus. The independent news outlet, News Laundry, reported chaotic scenes at one government-run facility in September, with patients sharing beds, lab reports delayed and a severe shortage of doctors. An open drain and ponds of stagnant water provided an ideal breeding ground for the mosquitos that transmit dengue, while monkeys, pigs, cows and dogs scrounged garbage dumps near the hospital for food.

As the number of dengue cases crossed 1,500 in Delhi last week, with serious outbreaks and spiking death rates across the country, the federal health minister Mansukh Mandaviya intervened. The ministry deployed teams of experts to nine states and territories and suggested COVID beds should be repurposed for dengue patients. Mandaviya also inadvertently highlighted one of the main shortfalls of India's pandemic response—the significant undercounting of cases and deaths. "Since testing is the most important step to identifying dengue, these deaths will not be reported as such and the disease will continue to be underreported," he said.

Epidemiologists say India's actual COVID death toll could range between 1.3 million to 5 million, with even the most conservative estimate putting its tally at more than double the U.S., the highest recorded in the world so far. That's three to 10 times the official count—a claim denied by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, which has consistently used the low reported mortality rate of 459,000 to defend its pandemic response.

But unless India learns from its missteps, it is doomed to repeat them when the third wave eventually arrives. As a priority, it must increase investment in public health, strengthen surveillance systems and significantly ramp up vaccinations. Its 1 billion-shot milestone last month was an important one, but when you consider that just 24% of India's 1.4 billion population is fully vaccinated, while 54% have had one shot, it is clear there's still a very long way to go. And that leaves us all vulnerable.

Experts from the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies say the government needs to do much more. Public health authorities should procure and stockpile excess essential medical supplies in anticipation of future COVID spikes and learn to manage health emergencies much faster. It is not a good sign that Modi's administration has taken months to recognize the seriousness of the dengue outbreak rather than acting when the early signs were so grim.

India must also strengthen its health security borders to avoid another mass movement of migrant workers, who left cities in their millions during the pandemic when their employment and housing disappeared, fanning out to villages across the country and taking the virus with them. It should also take seriously the urgent need to increase the number of health care workers to meet World Health Organization guidelines, and make sure they're properly paid and equipped.

The consequences of moving slowly on these reforms are too great to ignore. India has already slipped on the Global Hunger Index to 101st out of 116 nations, below countries like Myanmar and Pakistan, while unemployment, particularly in the vast hinterland, is surging. Even as the economy is showing signs of a recovery with the consumption-driven festive season, it will take a lot to ease the pain felt by the most vulnerable, who are in urgent need of food, jobs and housing. Here's hoping this dengue outbreak rings alarm bells for the government.

VACCINE

From Page 10

who'd been vaccinated.

The new antiviral pills that may soon come on the market from Merck and Pfizer are also not a sufficient reason to back away from vaccine mandates. Vaccines offer broad protection against both infection and severe COVID-19. While the antivirals might be able to prevent infections from becoming so severe as to require hospitalization, they don't guard against catching and spreading the disease, and this needs to remain a priority.

COVID-19 has proven hard to extinguish. Just when it seems to fade, the case numbers rise again—as they are now doing in Europe—and for reasons that can be frustratingly fuzzy. What's clear in the U.S. is that the unvaccinated population remains too large for the virus to stop freely circulating. Vaccine mandates are needed to bring the epidemic under control.

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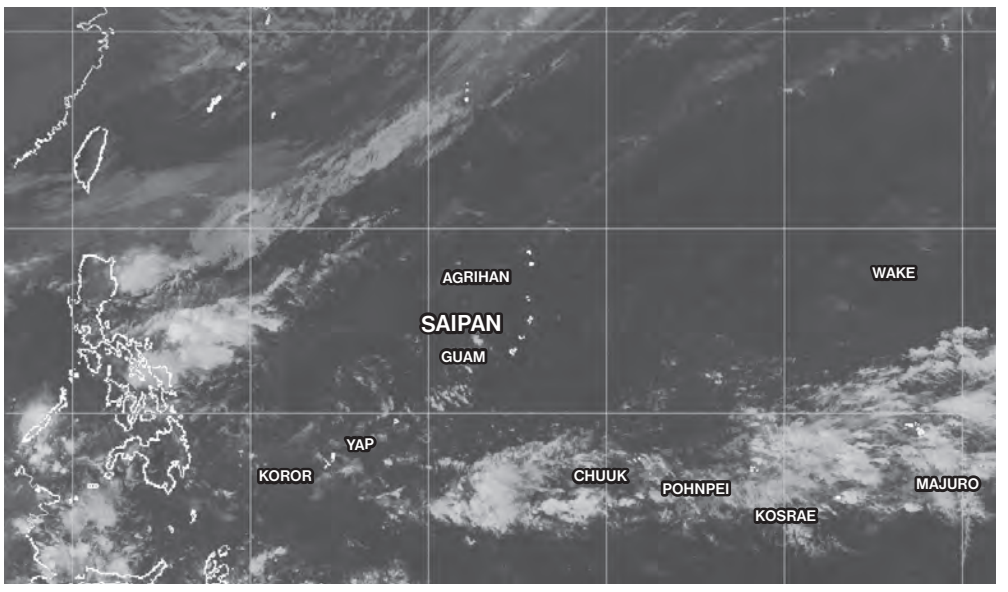
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with showers likely and a chance of thunderstorms.
88° 75°	88° 75°	88° 75°	88° 75°	88° 75°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:19 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies, isolated mostly light showers and moderate trade winds are present this morning across the Marianas. An isolated thunderstorm has popped up about 100 miles SW of Guam. Seas range between 5 and 7 feet, and are currently indicated at about 5 feet at the Ipan buoy.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:17 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:07 AM	1:17 PM
Saturday	-	1:03 AM	1:58 PM
Sunday	-	1:55 AM	2:37 PM
Monday	-	2:45 AM	3:13 PM
Tuesday	-	3:33 AM	3:48 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	66° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 23°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	82° / 73°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	83° / 73°
London	Sunny	45° / 36°
Los Angeles	Sunny	74° / 57°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Rain	79° / 57°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	81° / 75°
New York	Showers	53° / 45°
Osaka	Showers	63° / 50°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	46° / 34°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	61° / 37°
Rome	Rain	54° / 41°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	69° / 45°
San Francisco	Showers	59° / 44°
Seoul	Sunny	50° / 34°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	66° / 52°
Washington, DC	Showers	52° / 44°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:09 AM	High Tide	1.39
07:51 AM	Low Tide	-0.13
3:34 PM	High Tide	1.76
9:44 PM	Low Tide	0.97

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 28, 2021

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	6
TW9308	3:20PM	8:00PM	4
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	6

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

New history and culture exhibit at Bank of Saipan

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council has partnered with the Bank of Saipan to present a free exhibit on culture and history at the bank's Beach Road, San Jose location.

The attractive exhibit features information about cultural practitioners; a *lighatutuur* display; photos of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian; historical facts about latte stones; wood carvings; authentic ancestral Chamorro sling stones; and more.

"The display we've prepared at the Bank of Saipan is one that celebrates who the indigenous peoples of the Marianas are at our roots," said Leo Pangelinan, executive director of NMHC. "We've made sure to include displays that provide a sample of projects produced or funded by the council that focus on our islands' cultural heritage and history. Our council extends its appreciation to the Bank of Saipan for being a gracious host of the exhibit and to the NMI Museum of History and Culture and the Commonwealth Council on the Arts and Culture for their contributions."

The exhibit can be viewed during working hours at the San Jose branch from 9am to 4pm between Nov. 3 and Dec. 4, 2021. There is no charge to view the exhibit. ***(PR)***

DROPOFF SITE NMC

Triple J Motors is an official 2021 "Toys for Tots" partner this holiday season. Community members who would like to donate toys to the "Toys for Tots" program can drop off their donation at Triple J Motors. The "Toys for Tots" program is a charitable initiative hosted by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve that provides toys to disadvantaged children during the Christmas holiday season. The program is spearheaded by the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Businesses who would like to participate in this program and host a toy collection box can email saipantoys4tots@gmail.com.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB22-CHCC/MICAH-HOME-005

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 16, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"LEASE OF VEHICLES"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-AS-006

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 16, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"OFFICE LEASE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement and Property Management
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 I www.marianas.edu

SUPPLY and DELIVERY OF VEHICLE
INVITATION FOR BIDS
NMC IFB 22-0001

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting competitive sealed Bids for the Supply and Delivery of One (1) 4X4 Crew Cab, Long bed Pickup Truck.

Specifications and Scope of Work packets may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing October 12, 2021 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m.** for the Electronic packet, please send request to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Sealed Bids Submission:
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P, As Terlaje Campus
Due Date and Time: 10:00am, November 12, 2021 (CNMI).

Paid for by 100% federal funds through the USDA-Rural Development Community Facilities- Disaster Grant, Case Number 62-005-91982292

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW22-ITB No.: 42200014

SUBMISSION DATE: November 30, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Renovation of Government House No. 1236, Capitol Hill, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **October 29, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 16, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 23, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY A. CAMACHO
Acting Secretary, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

SAIPAN COMPUTER SERVICES, INC.

DISPOSAL OF UNCLAIMED UNITS

ATTENTION!!!

SCS,Inc. shall be disposing off all Customer Computer & Peripheral Units (Repairable or Irreparable) that have been unclaimed for Six (6) Months or more. Disposal will be on January 3, 2022

PLEASE CLAIM YOUR UNITS IMMEDIATELY

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-018

Opening Date: November 12, 2021
Closing Date: November 25, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Meter Reader**
DEPARTMENT:	**COA/Billing & Collections**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 - $22,602.00 per annum, (plus Hazardous pay) Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Three(3)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Required to work in the field obtaining utility meter readings for electric and water consumption meters, deep well or outflow meters and other similar devices and entering data in hand-held computers or devices.
- Perform work orders for customer service verifications and investigations. Reports findings and recommends solutions and updates customer accounts.
- Performs research on account discrepancies or unusual meter readings and consumption. Reports irregularities or reasons for fluctuations.
- Prepares reports of findings, deficiencies and recommendations to assist in investigations and billing resolutions as needed.
- Inspects, repairs, replaces or disconnects utility meters and equipment and services.
- Assigns routing numbers for customer locations.
- Monitors meters for damaged or unauthorized connections and tampering.
- Assist in reviewing cycles, work orders, and readings in preparation of bill processing.
- Assist in the processing and printing of customer bills and delivery of bills and notices.
- Assist other divisions with mapping projects, locations, and other requirements.
- Assist other divisions with mapping projects, locations, and other requirements.
- Operates and maintains use of government vehicles; conducts basic vehicle inspections to ensure they are in proper working order and recommends service and maintenance of vehicles.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.
Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical principles; Recordkeeping principles; Safety principles and safe work practices; Applicable equipment used in field utility services (based on assignment); Modern office technology.
Skills in: Coordinating services with other departments or resources; Inspecting and operating field equipment related to utility usage (based on assignment); Performing basic mathematical calculations; Researching account information or discrepancies; Preparing and maintaining files, forms, reports and records; Copying and scanning documents; Updating, maintaining and preparing reports and spreadsheet tracking documents; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

- **Licensing:**
  - o Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-003

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BUCKET TRUCKS AND TRUCK CRANE

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of six bucket trucks and one 30ton truck crane for the CUC Power Distribution in Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the United states Department of the Interior (USDOIA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-22-003, Supply and Delivery of Bucket Trucks and Truck Crane)"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 6, 2021** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code*.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 12, 2021**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, CUC Power Division Manager via email lee.lieto@cucgov.org, and Adrian Reyes, CUC Power Division Engineer at email adrian.reyes@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 021

Opening Date: November 1, 2021
Closing Date: November 16, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Trades Technician**
DEPARTMENT:	**Rota Water Division**
LOCATION:	**Rota, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$20,826.00 - $28,115.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**One (1)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility.
- Provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures.
- Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance.
- Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility.
- Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions.
- Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates.
- Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas.
- akes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma/GED or ABE Program AS and four (4) years of experience related to area of assignment. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances (based on assignment); Customer service principles; Basic Mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skills in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards (based on assignment); Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing of quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area; Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing/Certification:
o Valid U.S. Driver's License with appropriate class;
o Trades Licenses and/or Certifications, based on assignment;
o Water/Wastewater Treatment and Distribution Certifications, based on assignment

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
(RE-ANNOUNCEMENT)

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22 – 022

Opening Date: November 1, 2021
Closing Date: November 16, 2021

POSITION TITLE:	**Dispatch Operator**
DEPARTMENT:	**COA/Customer Service/Call Center**
LOCATION:	**Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA**
ANNUAL SALARY:	**$16,742.00 per annum, Non-Exempt**
CONTRACT:	**Not Contracted**
POSITION(S):	**Three (3)**

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief of Administration or his/her designee.

Duties:
- Monitors radio communications in order to dispatch crews for troubleshooting and for related service calls.
- Receives incoming calls reporting complaints or issues related to water, sewer or power utilities; provides general customer service; and routes service calls to appropriate resource.
- Organizes and maintains file systems and pertinent records.
- Performs data entry; maintains and updates logs and dispatch related documentation.
- Prepares and maintains requisitions.
- Follows up with customers to provide basic information, status updates, and to verify customer's experience and any remaining service needs.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Successful candidates for the position must have the following:

Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS and up to 1 year of customer service experience.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic recordkeeping principles; Radio communications equipment procedures; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Monitoring and utilizing radio communications and equipment; receiving and routing service or problem calls; entering, updating and maintaining data; organizing and maintaining filing systems and records; preparing and updating logs, records and related documentation; performing follow up calls to ensure adequate service provision; utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Supreme Court takes up equality issue in US territories; justices show few answers

AMERICA HAS A COLONIES PROBLEM
EQUAL RIGHTS WHEREVER YOU LIVE
5 TERRITORIES 3.5M US CITIZENS
GUAHU SI JOSÉ
AMERICA HAS A COLONIES PROBLEM

Former Guam delegate Madeleine Bordallo, along with other current and former residents of U.S. territories, pose in front of the Supreme Court as part of Equally American's "I am José" campaign.

CHANTALE WONG PHOTOGRAPHY

The Supreme Court was asked Wednesday to consider what four words emblazoned on the front of the court—"Equal Justice Under Law"—mean for the 3.5 million citizens living in U.S. territories. At issue was whether the denial of Supplemental Security Income benefits to José L. Vaello Madero based solely on his place of residence in Puerto Rico violated the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection. Two lower courts ruled favorably for Vaello Madero, but it was unclear after oral argument whether the Supreme Court would affirm or reverse those decisions.

"The argument was much farther ranging than I expected," said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American, which advocates for equal rights for citizens in U.S. territories and filed an amicus brief in the case. "We weren't given a lot in the way of answers on what most of the justices were thinking. It was clear that many of them were still thinking through—sometimes out loud—what they wanted to do in the case."

The strongest voice in favor of Vaello Madero was Justice Sonia Sotomayor, whose parents are from Puerto Rico. She explained to her colleagues that "Puerto Ricans are citizens, and the Constitution applies to them. Their needy people are being treated different than the needy people in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Northern Mariana Islands." She emphasized again later, "Needy is needy, whether in Puerto Rico or in the mainland."

"Justice Sotomayor explained in simple and plain terms why where one lives—standing alone—cannot be a basis to deny a U.S. citizen equal enjoyment of a uniform federal benefit like SSI," Weare said.

The *Insular Cases*—a series of *Plessy*-era decisions that established a doctrine of "separate and unequal status" for residents of U.S. territories—were also a significant focus of the argument. After deputy solicitor general Curtis Gannon disclaimed any reliance by the government on the *Insular Cases*, Justice Neil Gorsuch responded, "Why shouldn't we just admit the Insular Cases were incorrectly decided?" When Mr. Gannon declined to answer directly, Gorsuch pressed further: "From the government's point of view, if the *Insular Cases* are wrong…why shouldn't we just say what everyone knows to be true?" In response, while Gannon stated that "some of the reasoning and rhetoric [of the *Insular Cases*] is obviously anathema, has been for decades, if not from the outset," he declined the opportunity to call on the Supreme Court to overrule the *Insular Cases*.

Weare said, "We've been calling on the Supreme Court to overrule the *Insular Cases* for years, so I was pleased to hear Justice Gorsuch call out the *Insular Cases* so directly. It was disappointing, though, that even after Justice Gorsuch opened the door for the government to walk through, they refused to take that step. In effect, the Biden-Harris Justice Department is continuing to defend the *Insular Cases*, which is hard to square with the values they profess to adhere to."

With the Supreme Court still closed to the public due to COVID-19, Equally American brought together supporters from several U.S. territories as part of its "I am José" campaign to listen to the arguments outside the court while holding signs demanding action by the court and Congress. Among those attending were former Guam delegate Madeleine Bordallo and staff from current Guam Delegate Michael F.Q. San Nicolas, among many others.

"The big takeaway today should be that we need to continue pushing decisionmakers in [Washington,] D.C. to address these historic injustices, which are grounded in systemic racism," Weare said. "Now that the case for equality has been made to the Supreme Court, we need to shift our focus to Congress, where the extension of SSI benefits to citizens in the territories has been included by House Democrats in the draft budget reconciliation bill. Getting that across the finish line will be hard work over the next few weeks, but we can't lose focus."

A new poll released yesterday shows that U.S. voters support expanding SSI benefits to citizens in the territories by a 45 point margin, with 69% supporting and only 24% opposing.

People from the territories whose lives have been impacted by the denial of SSI benefits are encouraged to continue sharing their stories with Equally American at https://www.equalrightsnow.org/ssisurvey. So far nearly 200 people have taken the survey.

A decision in the case is not expected until later next year. More information on *U.S. v. Vaello Madero*, including links to the transcript and audio of the oral argument, is available at https://www.equalrightsnow.org/vaello_madero. More about the "I am José" campaign is available at https://www.equalrightsnow.org/iam-jose. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-22-004

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ENGINE LUBE OILS FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan and Rota.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in via email to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-22-004, Supply & Delivery of Engine Lube Oils for Power Generation"* to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building**, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 24, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 16, 2021**, to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, Power Generation Manager via email, richard.cano@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-22-006

Fiber Optic Internet Connectivity for CUC's Communications & Data Storage Network

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms for the installation of a Fiber Optic Internet Connectivity for CUC's Communications & Data Storage Network in CUC Saipan, CUC Tinian and CUC Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one package.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-22-006: Fiber Optic Internet Connectivity for CUC's Communications & Data Storage Network"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. on November 26, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 18, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email, manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Patrick Reyes, CUC IT Analyst at patrick.reyes@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Guam is a step closer to creating cannabis industry

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Pursuant to Guam law regulating the use, production and sale of cannabis, Department of Public Health and Social Services director Arthur San Agustin has executed a contract with Metrc, an experienced provider of cannabis regulatory systems in the United States.

Metrc's system combines advanced software, radio-frequency identification, a dedicated customer support team, and a secure database to track cannabis from growth, harvest and processing, to testing, transport, and sale. Metrc holds exclusive government contracts in various areas of the United States, including Alaska, California, and Washington, D.C. While these regions have diverse regulatory frameworks, they share the goal of creating safe, legal cannabis markets. Metrc serves over 250,000 users, including growers, testing facilities, dispensaries, state regulators, and law enforcement officials across 15 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam.

"Over the last decade, we have seen substantial evidence that cannabis has medicinal benefits. With the final review by our Cannabis Control Board on the rules and regulations for the industry, we can more efficiently control recreational use and ensure safe and regulated products," said Go. Lou Leon Guerrero. "The cannabis industry will benefit our community by funding expanded public services in health and public safety, and providing alternative treatment and rehabilitation for people who need it."

Separately, Guam Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio said: "As an island territory and tourism hotspot, Guam's cannabis market faces unique challenges when it comes to regulation and oversight. …We are excited for this historic partnership between DPHSS and Metrc, which will assist our government in executing the secure and responsible implementation of our cannabis industry on Guam, and further provide us with the tools we need to ensure our success."

San Agustin said that Guam's healthcare and regulatory professionals have been working collaboratively with partners in the United States to help reach this important milestone. "With the selection of Metrc as our provider, we now can begin to build the framework of Guam's cannabis regulatory system. We look forward to working cohesively in creating an industry that will cultivate medical treatment and revenue for the people of Guam," he said.

Metrc chief executive officer Jeff Wells said that Metrc is "excited to rise to the challenge of this unique regulatory opportunity. Metrc is thrilled to partner with the Department of Public Health and Social Services as Guam builds its medical marijuana market. We look forward to working with both regulators and licensed business owners to implement the island's first regulatory track-and-trace program. We are proud to play a leading role in ensuring the safety and security of the nation's legal cannabis market." ***(PR)***

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OUTREACH

Office on Aging director Walter Manglona, left, makes a point during a meeting with 16th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council acting chairperson Antonia M. Tudela, right, and Office on Aging Association president Genia Draper.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Office on Aging director Walter Manglona, right, shares a light moment with 16th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council acting chairperson Antonia M. Tudela, left, and Office on Aging Association president Genia Draper.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

16th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council acting chairperson Antonia M. Tudela meets with Northern Islands Mayor Vicente Santos last Nov. 3 as part of Tudela's efforts to secure lasting partnerships at the municipal level for meaningful community-based programs for families and households in villages.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

State Department to host TechCamp Young Pacific Leaders for Climate Action in 2022

WASHINGTON D.C.—The U.S. Department of State, in partnership with Cultural Vistas, announced yesterday it will host TechCamp Young Pacific Leaders for Climate Action in 2022 in Auckland, New Zealand. The U.S. Department of State is investing $315,000 in this TechCamp.

TechCamp Young Pacific Leaders blends two of the many U.S. government initiatives in support of the Indo-Pacific and young leaders across the region. The TechCamp will create connections among Pacific scientists and science communicators and their counterparts in the United States to support collaboration on climate change response while building a comprehensive understanding of and practical technical skills on various considerations needed to pursue climate resiliency and approaches to addressing the effects of climate change. This initiative is one of many that the U.S. government is supporting to tackle the climate crisis in the Pacific region.

"Pacific island nations know better than anyone that averting the worst of climate change is going to save lives," said U.S. President Joe Biden during his virtual address at the Pacific Islands Forum last August. "…If we don't [do anything], we're going to lose a lot of lives. You're already feeling the impact of having to adapt. The United States is committed to dramatically reducing our emissions by 2030 and building resilience into vulnerable communities globally."

The idea of a TechCamp arose from a need identified by participants at the Young Pacific Leaders 2021 conference earlier this year, virtually hosted in Papua New Guinea. Young Pacific leaders expressed a need to better communicate scientific concepts, both Western and indigenous scientific information, to the public with a specific focus on climate change and public health.

"We're excited to support this initiative of Young Pacific Leaders, giving them the tools and connections to address the biggest challenges of our time and to integrate the latest climate science into development planning and implementation across all areas of work," said Kevin Covert, acting U.S. ambassador to New Zealand, the Cook Islands, Niue, and Samoa.

The Young Pacific Leaders Initiative focuses on strengthening leadership development for emerging leaders in Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, the Federated States of Micronesia, the islands of French Polynesia, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, and the American-affiliated Pacific including American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Hawaii.

TechCamps are a public diplomacy effort hosted through the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State that provide participants with the chance to learn technical skills through direct training by experts that can be applied to address a variety of global challenges.

Visit https://nz.usembassy.gov/young-pacific-leaders/ for more information on the Young Pacific Leaders Initiative and https://techcamp.america.gov/ for more information on TechCamps.

The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs, U.S. Embassy New Zealand, and Cultural Vistas have worked together to implement several efforts that equip global leaders in developing skills to solve complex challenges in their lives and communities, including those involved in addressing climate change. More information on TechCamp Young Pacific Leaders 2022 and how to apply will be shared in the coming months. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Power service interruption today

There will be a scheduled power service interruption today, Nov. 12, 2021, from 6am to 7:30am, affecting Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers on Capital Hill (Governor's Office, Legislature Building and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Training Building).

The power outage in necessary to allow CUC to install a one-span overhead primary conductor on Capital Hill along Isa Drive. No water well or wastewater facility will be affected.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***

FOA issues call for talents

The Friends of the Arts would like to stir up the Christmas spirit with the performance of a variation on *Scrooge: the Musical* in the latter part of December. If you are interested in taking part, contact Harold Easton at harold.easton@cnmipss.org. Interested folks of all ages are invited to apply. ***(PR)***

Island Snapshots

An honor guard of the Department of Public Safety troops the colors during yesterday's Veterans Day ceremony at the American Memorial Park. JOSHUA SANTOS

Members of the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band have their picture taken after performing at the Veterans Day ceremony at the American Memorial Park yesterday. JOSHUA SANTOS

TIME OF GIVING

McDonald's Saipan owner/operator Marcia Ayuyu, left, hands the company's donation to Salvation Army pastor Wayne Gillespie, right, at the company's main office in Dan Dan. The donation is part of the CNMI Salvation Army's "Corporate Red Kettle Challenge," which enables private companies to give, in lieu of the "Red Kettle Ball" that the Salvation Army cancelled due to the recent cases of COVID-19 in the community. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WINNING COSTUMES

Hyatt Regency Saipan hosted a Halloween costume contest for Halloween and the winners for best group took its inspiration from the Netflix series, Squid Game. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

VETERANS DAY ON TINIAN

Mayor Edwin P. Aldan and his wife, Rosita King-Aldan, prepare to lay a wreath at the Tinian Veterans Memorial Park as part of yesterday's celebration of Veterans Day. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tinian leadership offers wreaths at the Tinian Veterans Memorial Park as part of yesterday's celebration of Veterans Day. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian veterans pose with Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps cadets of the Tinian Junior/Senior High School at the Tinian Veterans Memorial Park as part of yesterday's celebration of Veterans Day. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"The Tinian and Aguiguan Leadership present a House resolution plaque and a plaque of recognition to CSM (Retired) Dolores P. Kiyoshi for her 30 years and two months of service. Kiyoshi was also the keynote speaker for this year's Veterans Day ceremony yesterday at the Tinian Veterans Memorial Park. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Tinian leadership pose for a photo with veterans at the conclusion of the Veterans Day ceremony yesterday at the Tinian Veterans Memorial Park. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Off The Wall

Thai police: Woman cut rope holding painters 26 floors up

BANGKOK (AP)—A resident of a high-rise condominium in Thailand cut the support rope for two painters, apparently angry she wasn't told they would be doing work, and left them hanging above the 26th floor until a couple rescued them, police said Wednesday.

The woman is facing attempted murder and property destruction charges, Pol. Col. Pongjak Preechakarunpong, chief of the Pak Kret police station north of the Thai capital, told The Associated Press.

Pongjak did not say what prompted the suspect to cut the rope, but Thai media reported that she was apparently frustrated when the workers appeared outside her room and hadn't seen an announcement by the condo that they would be doing work on Oct. 12.

A video clip on social media showed two painters asking the residents on the 26th floor to open the window and let them in. One of the painters, a Myanmar national named Song, told the Thai media that he and his two friends had lowered themselves from the 32nd floor to repair a crack on the building.

When he reached the 30th floor, he felt that the rope was heavier and when he looked down, he saw someone on the 21st floor open a window and cut his rope. He tried asking for help from other units, but nobody was in. The third colleague continued to support them from the top floor, said Praphaiwan Setsing, the resident who saved them.

Praphaiwan said her British husband noticed one painter signaling for help and called her to talk to them.

"This incident is shocking and should not happen at all," she said.

The management of the condo accompanied the painters to report the incident to the police. The 34-year-old woman at first denied she responsible, but police sent the severed rope for a fingerprint and DNA analysis, media reported.

On Wednesday, the woman and her lawyer appeared at the police station. After the police showed her the CCTV footage and the forensic evidence, she confessed but denied any intention to kill the workers.

9-foot video game joystick is largest

HANOVER, N.H. (AP)—A 9-foot-tall (2.7-meter-tall) video game joystick made of wood, rubber and steel has made it into the Guinness World Records 2022 as the largest.

Dartmouth College professor Mary Flanagan created the giant controller—nearly 14 times the size of an original classic Atari controller—in 2006 to celebrate her childhood experience of "maniacally" playing Atari 2600 video games.

She also wanted to see what it would be like when a single-player experience becomes collaborative: It takes at least two people to operate the joystick and push the button to play classic Atari games such as "Centipede" and "Breakout."

"To have this common pop culture artifact just erupt in the middle of a space and allow people to play something familiar, yet not familiar, was exciting," said Flanagan, an artist who is chair of Dartmouth's Film and Media Studies and the Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Professor in Digital Humanities.

The joystick, which toured Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States, is now part of the permanent collection of ZKM Center for Art and Media in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Two girls operate the Giant Joystick at LABoral Art and Industrial Creation Centre, March 31, 2007 in Asturias, Spain. The giant video game controller made of wood, rubber and steel by a Dartmouth College professor Mary Flanagan has made it into the Guinness World Records 2022 as the largest joystick. Flanagan created the controller in 2006 to celebrate her childhood experience of playing Atari 2600 video games. (MA2GAN VIA AP)

2-headed baby turtle thrives at animal refuge

BARNSTABLE, Mass. (AP)—A rare two-headed diamondback terrapin turtle is alive and kicking—with all six of its legs—at the Birdsey Cape Wildlife Center in Massachusetts after hatching two weeks ago.

A threatened species in the state, this turtle is feeding well on blood worms and food pellets, staff at the center say. The two heads operate independently, coming up for air at different times, and inside its shell are two gastrointestinal systems to feed both sides of its body.

The turtle originally came from a nest in West Barnstable that researchers determined was in a hazardous location and needed to be moved. After hatching, turtles in these so-called "head start" nests are sent to different care centers to be monitored before their release in the spring, The Cape Cod Times reported.

A two-headed diamondback terrapin is weighed at the Birdsey Cape Wildlife Center on Saturday, Oct. 9, 2021, in Barnstable, Mass., where the two-week old animal is being treated. AP

Center veterinarian Pria Patel and other staff members will continue to monitor the turtle, which they nicknamed Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen after the twin child stars. The staff is hoping to perform a CT scan to learn more about its circulatory system.

Science &Technology

Feds mull threatened status for alligator snapping turtle

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Monday that it is proposing threatened status for alligator snapping turtles—huge, spike-shelled reptiles that lurk at the bottom of lakes and slow waterways, luring prey to their mouths by sticking out a wormlike lure.

Every state in their range now protects them, but the long-lasting effects of catching the reptiles for turtle soup are among reasons their numbers are now so low, the agency said.

"Alligator snappers are some of the fiercest, wildest creatures in the Southeast, but overexploitation and habitat destruction have put their lives on the line," Elise Bennett, an attorney for the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a news release.

The turtles are suffering the effects of "decades and decades of exploitation," Bennett, whose organization sued for protection for the species, said in an interview.

Alligator snapping turtles can live 80 years, with males known to weigh up to 249 pounds (113 kilograms) with shells up to 29 inches (74 centimeters) long. Their jaws are strong enough to snap bone.

An estimated 360,000 exist in 12 states, but without protection their numbers are likely to plummet to 5% of that or less in 30 to 50 years, the Fish and Wildlife Service said Monday in an online preview of a Federal Register notice scheduled Tuesday.

They once were found in Kansas and Indiana, but now live in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas, the agency said.

"The range has contracted in Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, and possibly in Oklahoma," it noted.

Those states all are along the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The service proposed threatened status in April for the related Suwannee alligator snapping turtle, found in the Suwannee River basin in Georgia and Florida.

Alexander: Turn off the more complex encryption in Windows 11 Pro

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune

Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Several readers responded to last week's column about how Windows 11 automatically encrypts PC data without telling consumers (see tinyurl.com/yv2w9fy4).

Those who responded agreed with my suggestion that readers turn off this automatic encryption, which could cause data to be lost if a PC failed with its information locked in.

For example, a repair shop would be unable to copy encrypted data from a damaged PC unless the owner knew where to find an "encryption key." Microsoft has so far done a poor job explaining the existence and location of this key.

But some readers pointed out that turning off encryption is sometimes easier said than done. That's because the two versions of Windows 11 most used by consumers — Home and Pro — turn off encryption differently. Last week's column explained how to turn off encryption on Windows 11 Home, but it turns out that those directions don't work for Windows 11 Pro.

Why is encryption different on the Pro and Home versions? More than 20 years ago, Microsoft began offering a form of voluntary encryption on some versions of Windows. Since then, security on the Home and Pro versions has evolved separately. Today, Windows 11 Home encrypts data using "device encryption" and Windows 11 Pro typically uses "BitLocker."BitLocker uses the more elaborate encryption method and is more complicated to turn off.

Here's how to turn off BitLocker on Windows 11 Pro: Open the Settings app (press the Windows and letter "I" keys simultaneously.) Click "System" on the left, then "Storage" on the right. Scroll to the bottom of the resulting menu and click "Advanced storage settings." In the next menu, click "Disks & volumes."

You'll then see a list of the storage "drives" on your PC. In fact, you'll see more drives than you thought you had, because a single hard drive or SSD (a chip-based substitute for a hard drive) is typically "partitioned" into separate segments that each has its own drive name. Some or all of these "drives" may be encrypted, and each will need to have its encryption turned off separately.

Check the list under each "drive" to see if it is "BitLocker encrypted." If it is, click "Properties" under the list. In the next menu, scroll to the bottom and click "Turn off BitLocker." In the next menu, find the same drive, and on the right click "Turn off BitLocker." You will get a warning message that says it may take a long time to "decrypt" the drive. Click "Turn off BitLocker" again. BitLocker will be disabled for that "drive" (which means its data won't be automatically encrypted in the future) and the drive will be unencrypted. Follow the same steps for any other encrypted "drive."

■■■

Q: I have an older HP DeskJet All-in-One printer that still works great. But the HP software that ran the printer no longer works because it was based on the now-discontinued Adobe Flash program. What can I do?

A: The HP Solution Center, a management program for HP printers, was discontinued because it depended heavily on the Adobe Flash animation program that Adobe dropped earlier this year. But HP has suggested several workarounds that will allow you to keep an older printer working, such as using the Windows built-in print driver software, or downloading the free "HP Scan and Capture" app (see tinyurl.com/a3d3ccxb) (For more details, see tinyurl.com/yjx5pa8d).

Life & Style

Crew member sues Alec Baldwin, others over 'Rust' shooting

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The head of lighting on the film "Rust" filed a lawsuit Wednesday over Alec Baldwin's fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the New Mexico set of the Western, alleging negligence that caused him "severe emotional distress" that will haunt him forever.

Serge Svetnoy said in the suit that the bullet that killed his close friend Hutchins, narrowly missed him, and he held her head as she died.

"They should never, ever, have had live rounds on this set," Svetnoy's attorney Gary A. Dordick said at a news conference Wednesday.

The lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court names nearly two dozen defendants associated with the film including Baldwin, who was both star and a producer; David Halls, the assistant director who handed Baldwin the gun; and Hannah Gutierrez Reed, who was in charge of weapons on the set.

It is the first known lawsuit of what could be many stemming from the Oct. 21 shooting, which also injured "Rust" director Joel Souza.

It was the ninth film that Svetnoy and Hutchins had worked on together, and he had taken the job at low pay because she asked him to.

"She was my friend," Svetnoy said at the news conference.

He said he had seen guns sitting unattended in the dirt a few days earlier in the shoot, and had warned the people responsible about them.

Chris Stapleton takes 6 at CMA Awards, Combs wins top prize

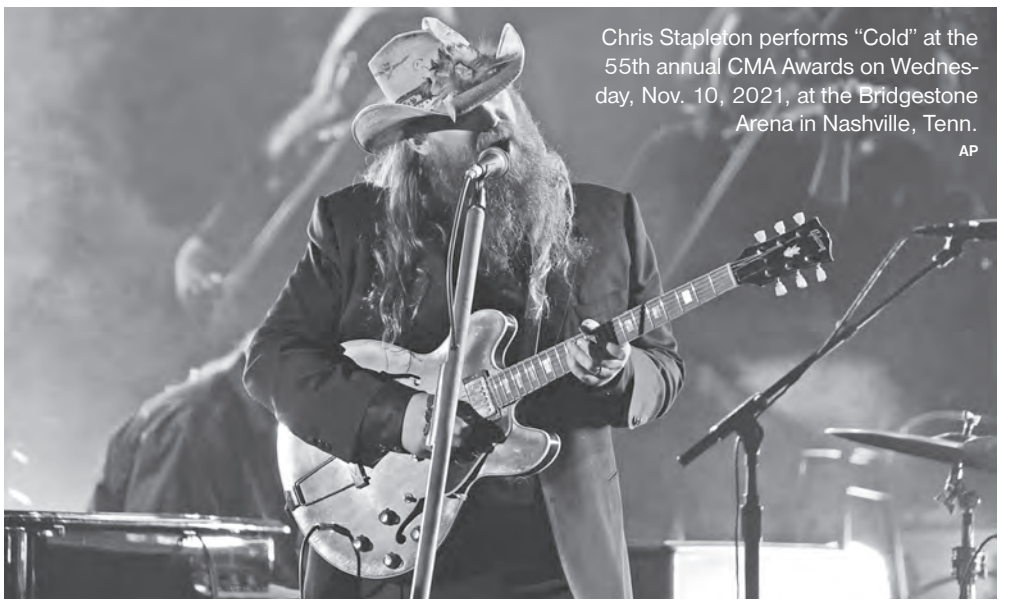
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Chris Stapleton was the big winner with six trophies including song and album of the year and Luke Combs claimed the biggest prize with entertainer of the year at the Country Music Association Awards on Wednesday night.

Stapleton won song and single of the year for "Starting Over" and album of the year for his record of the same name. He walked away with two more trophies as a producer on the single and album.

He then won male vocalist of the year for the fifth time and it appeared he would sweep the night before Combs swooped in and kept it from becoming a coronation.

"I don't deserve to win it," an emotional Combs said as he accepted the entertainer of the year trophy from Alan Jackson, "but I'm sure as hell glad that I did."

At times it seemed Stapleton, who also performed twice, was on the stage all night.



Chris Stapleton performs "Cold" at the 55th annual CMA Awards on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021, at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn. AP

"Man, amazing," the soft-spoken singer with the long beard, never one for speeches, said after he won his last award. "I'm running out of words.

He came into the night the top nominee along with Eric Church, who was shut out.

Along with Stapleton and Church, Combs beat out Carrie Underwood and Miranda Lambert, who opened the ABC telecast with a medley of her hits, including "Kerosene," "Mama's Broken Heart" and "Gunpowder & Lead."

It was a night of big emotions for many winners.

The Brothers Osborne won vocal duo of the year for the fourth time. Lead singer T.J. Osborne, who came out as gay this year, appeared to be holding back tears as he accepted.

"It's been a roller coaster of a year, especially for me emotionally, and for you all to support me, it's been incredible," he said from the stage.

Allen was openly tearful as he became the second Black performer to win new artist of the year.

"I want to thank my father who's no longer with us for introducing me to country music," Allen said.

He recalled spending the last of his money to be able to see pioneering Black country artist Charley Pride at the CMAs in 2016, then getting to perform with Pride on last year's show. Pride died of COVID-19 a month later.

Darius Rucker in 2009 was the first Black artist to win the award.

Old Dominion won vocal group of the year for the fourth-straight time.

Carly Pearce wept as she won female vocalist of the year for the first time.

Pearce, competing in an all-female category, was the only woman to take the stage and claim an award during the ceremony, now in its 55th year.

'I'm so lucky': Elton John receives prestigious UK award

LONDON (AP)—Elton John has no doubt been a member of many exclusive clubs over the decades, but probably nothing quite as exclusive as the one he formally joined on Wednesday.

In an investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle, Prince Charles anointed the musician and charity patron as a member of the Order of the Companions of Honour.

It is one of the highest awards that can be bestowed by Charles' mother, Queen Elizabeth II, to citizens in Britain and across the Commonwealth. The 95-year-old monarch is also a member of the order.

Introduced in 1917 by her grandfather King George V, the award recognizes people who have made "a major contribution to the arts, science, medicine, or government lasting over a long period of time."

Current members include British environmentalist David Attenborough, Canadian author Margaret Atwood and one of Britain's greatest-ever athletes Sebastian Coe.

The group, which in the past has included British wartime prime minister Winston Churchill and scientist Stephen Hawking, can only number a maximum of 65, excluding the sovereign, at any one time.

"I was quite taken aback when I got the letter to say that I'd received it because I know it's, very few people get it," John said after receiving the gold medallion with the inscription "In action faithful and in honour clear." John, who was knighted by the queen in 1998, a year after the death of his friend Diana, the Princess of Wales, joined the Companions of Honour in the queen's honors list in late 2019 for his services to music and charity.

The 74-year-old singer-songwriter, who walked with the aid of an ornate stick after recent hip surgery, reflected on a career that has seen him release a hit single in every decade since the 1970s, including "Your Song," "Rocketman" and "Candle in the Wind."

Jury rejects fragrance company's lawsuit against Jay-Z

NEW YORK (AP)—A fragrance company's lawsuit against rapper Jay-Z over breach of contract claims, and his subsequent countersuit against the company, were both rejected Wednesday with a jury finding that neither side had proven its claims and awarding no damages.

Parlux Fragrances had filed the suit in state Supreme Court in Manhattan in January 2016, saying the rapper had not fulfilled promotional obligations connected to the 2013 launch and subsequent campaign for the "Gold Jay-Z" cologne brand.

The rapper filed a countersuit saying Parlux had breached its contract by failing to pay him royalties he was owed.

The case had gone to trial last month, with the hip-hop superstar taking the stand.

In a statement after the verdict, Jay-Z said, "I'd like to express my gratitude to the jury, especially during these difficult times," and his attorney said he was "pleased" with the result.

Parlux, in its statement, said "it believes it presented a strong case and is disappointed that the jury rendered a verdict today finding that neither side proved breach by the other," and that it plans "to pursue all legal options available to it."

Man's house has become drug user's safe space

DEAR ABBY: I have an acquaintance I have known for 10 years. He is homeless and a heroin addict. His addiction has gotten worse over the last year and it is really bad now. He shows up at my home at all times of the night, sleeps on my porch and leaves wet, dirty clothes behind. He comes over high on heroin, nods out and acts very strange. I feed him, let him shower and even buy him clothes from the resale shops, but I need this all to STOP.

He continually needs something—money for cigarettes, a ride to here or there, clothes. I am a 65-year-old semi-retired man and I do not want or need a homeless heroin addict in my life in my remaining days on this planet. I have tried repeatedly to end this "friendship," but he doesn't have anyone. When I tell him to leave me alone, he breaks down and cries. It breaks my heart.

When we first met, he was a happy, friendly, handsome person, but now it's horrible. He's sickly and looks bad. I have even considered selling my home and moving. What can I do to finally get rid of this guy for good?

DESPERATE IN FLORIDA

DEAR DESPERATE: By now you should have realized that you can't fix what's wrong with this person. In fact, you have become his enabler. Tell him you have done everything you can, but it hasn't helped him straighten his life around. Offer to help him find a drug rehabilitation program. Then tell him that until he demonstrates a willingness to help himself, you do not want to see him again. If he shows up stoned after that, rather than give him showers, money and clothing, call the police and have him removed from your property.

■ ■ ■ ■

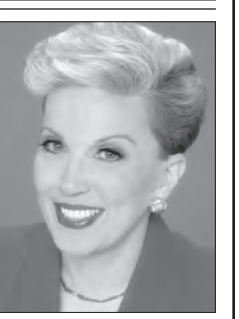
DEAR ABBY: Two months ago, I started dating a man I'll call "Hugh" after a mutual friend of a friend introduced us. He is retired, and I still work. Hugh is very sociable and friendly, and drinks much more than I do. His friends are great. One particular single friend, "Terry," is my age, and we have similar interests. I haven't been intimate with Hugh because I'm not particularly attracted to him. I also don't think Hugh is all that interested because we don't get together too often, although he calls daily for a minute or two to check in. He wants a relationship, but I don't feel it.

I'm starting to think Hugh is looking more for a friend with benefits. I would prefer to remain just friends. I also want to be able to further a relationship with Terry, who has a lot more in common with me. How do I do it tactfully? Hugh has been nice to me, but, like I said, I feel no romantic connection. I also don't want to string him along.

KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

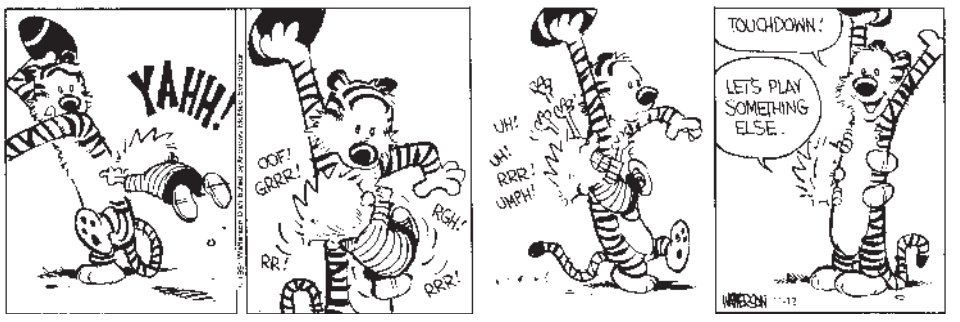
DEAR KEEPING: Tell Hugh you like him and hope you will always be friends—but just friends. Let him know you see others and hope that he does, too. Throw a party and invite a group of friends, including Terry. If Terry shows any interest in you, respond accordingly. Then cross your fingers.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



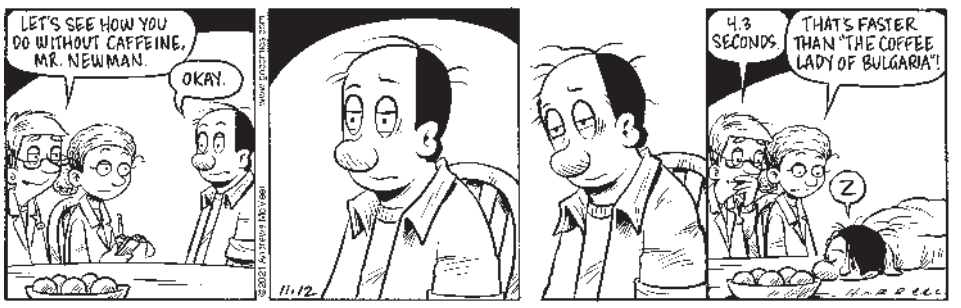
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

CATS ARE WONDERFUL COMPANY
YES, THEY ARE
GARFIELD! COME SPEND SOME TIME WITH US!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH
JIM DAVIS 11-12

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I LIKE SOME NEW COUNTRY MUSIC. BUT SOME OF THE ARTISTS DON'T IMPRESS ME.
LIKE THIS GUY. HE'S NOT AUTHENTIC LIKE MERLE HAGGARD WAS. HE SEEMS OVERLY MARKETED.
PLEASE DON'T TALK ABOUT "FLEXMAX SKINNYJEANS" LIKE THAT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 USMC rank
4 Hero sandwich
7 Pedro's pal
12 Bathroom, to a Brit
13 Rock producer Brian
14 Hen pens
15 Mode lead-in
16 "Back to Black" singer Amy
18 Little louse
19 Public outburst
20 Pear choice
22 Takeoff stat
23 Diner orders
27 Klutz
29 Try hard
31 Theme
34 Parson's home
35 Fissures
37 "Get comfy"
38 Allows
39 Dead heat
41 Slender
45 Sacred scroll
47 Gymnast Raisman
48 Drink served by the glass
52 "— so fast!"
53 Cushy course
54 High school subj.
55 Cigar residue
56 Bit of mischief
57 — Majesty
58 TGIF part

DOWN
1 Second strategy
2 Page number
3 Layers of paints
4 Stitches
5 Relief org. for kids
6 Actress Lisa
7 Massage target
8 Cow's greeting
9 Debtor's letters
10 Family docs
11 Sugar suffix
17 Winds up
21 Hair-styles
23 Spoiled kids
24 — -Manuel Miranda
25 Sports bar sets
26 Observe
28 Astern
30 Texter's "Enough!"
31 Roman 1150
32 Flamenco cheer
33 Asian holiday
36 Pack cargo
37 Spooky gathering
40 From Dublin
42 Island porch
43 Short concession
44 Legends
45 Ship wood
46 Estate recipient
48 With it, once
49 Rowboat need
50 Olympics chant
51 Wd. from Roget

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	M	C			C	A	S	A		N	A	N
B	A	T			I	R	A	N		O	G	R
C	A	T	S	C	A	N	S		M	O	C	S
			C	S	E		D	E	L	I	G	H
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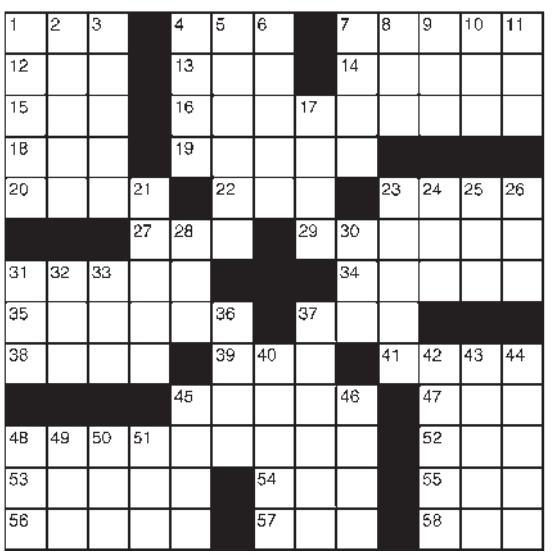
M	E	S	S		S	A	T	S		S	E	X

Yesterday's answer 11-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Raymond Ablack, 32; Anne Hathaway, 39; Ryan Gosling, 41; Megan Mullally, 63.

Happy Birthday: Memories will point you in a unique direction. Reach out to someone who has influenced you in the past, and you'll get an inkling of where you want to go and what you want to pursue. It's time to follow your heart and be responsible for your happiness. Map out a course that offers peace of mind and happiness. Your numbers are 6, 14, 17, 24, 29, 32, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Pay attention to detail regarding shared expenses and responsibilities. Be open and honest about the way you feel, and it will help you avoid a misunderstanding. A change will turn out to be more beneficial than anticipated. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Put an emphasis on looking your best, staying healthy and fit, and spending time with someone who brings out the best in you. Explore possibilities, and consider making a positive lifestyle adjustment. Romance will bring you closer to someone you love. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Focus on what you can do. Research, preparation and promotion are essential to get ahead. Leave nothing to chance or in someone else's hands. Once you take care of business, relax with someone or something that eases your stress. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Mingle, enjoy life and indulge in pastimes that pique your imagination and bring you in contact with interesting people. Take a pass on joint ventures or costly investments. Self-improvement projects will pay off, and romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Let things unfold naturally. You cannot change the inevitable, but keep a positive mindset, and focus on personal growth and acquiring information that will help you get ahead. The lessons learned will be valuable, and success will follow. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Unleash your creativity and see what happens. Changing your beliefs and lifestyle will stabilize your life and get you moving in a direction that excites you. A new look or an adjustment to your living arrangements will be promising. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Explore possibilities. Attend events that encourage networking and connecting to people who share your interests. Learn from your mistakes, and you'll avoid a repeat performance. Don't waste time or money on nonessentials or someone looking for a handout. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Maintain a simple lifestyle, and refuse to get involved in the drama that goes on around you. Stop wasting time and start making a point to use your strengths and wisdom to do what you do best and love most. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Guard personal information. Sharing too much with others will end up costing you. Take care of your responsibilities before you move on to recreational activities. Budget for the future, and refrain from overspending. A change of plans will cause an emotional tiff. ✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Tidy up unfinished business. The freedom to follow your heart and do what makes you happy is priceless. Self-improvement and romance are favored and will encourage you to have the confidence to take a bold move. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Listen carefully, plan precisely and leave nothing to chance. Take on essential tasks, and handle matters personally to avoid setbacks and opposition. Don't be afraid to do things by yourself if it makes sense. Ideally, you want to accomplish your goal. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Pay attention to detail and budget. If you have your finger on the pulse, you'll know what's required of you to get what you want. Change begins with you and how determined you are to finish what you start. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, creative and appealing. You are charitable and independent.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

						5		
				6		3		7
2	1						9	
	7	4			1			
	8			3			4	
			5			1	2	
	6						3	4
8		3		1				
	9							

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	4	6	5	1	2	7	3	8
2	1	7	4	3	8	9	5	6
3	5	8	6	9	7	2	4	1
7	9	2	8	4	5	6	1	3
1	3	4	9	7	6	8	2	5
6	8	5	3	2	1	4	7	9
4	6	1	7	5	9	3	8	2
5	7	9	2	8	3	1	6	4
8	2	3	1	6	4	5	9	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MOD PODGE — Solution: 7 letters

D	H	C	I	M	A	R	E	C	D	R	Y	I	N	G
T	E	S	S	H	E	E	R	E	U	J	E	D	A	M
E	N	C	I	V	L	A	C	E	A	T	N	I	A	P
L	T	E	O	N	G	O	Y	R	C	L	O	T	I	H
E	I	C	I	U	R	S	S	A	I	O	T	U	S	F
M	S	A	N	D	P	A	P	E	R	E	L	I	T	A
E	S	A	V	A	E	A	V	L	B	P	N	O	S	S
N	U	U	R	B	L	R	G	C	A	I	S	S	R	H
T	E	K	R	U	C	T	G	E	F	T	M	S	E	I
S	L	U	M	F	O	T	I	N	T	U	A	O	Y	O
E	S	R	T	N	A	T	S	N	I	V	O	L	A	N
H	O	S	N	I	T	C	F	D	N	E	F	G	L	R
F	A	S	T	A	I	N	E	A	C	E	T	A	T	E
A	R	R	E	T	N	M	C	S	R	E	L	A	E	S
W	O	O	D	E	G	A	L	L	O	C	O	T	T	A

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Acetate, Brush, Canvas, Ceramic, Clear, Coating, Collage, Color, Cotta, Cover, Craft, Cutouts, Decor, Découpage, Drying, Elements, Fabric, Fashion, Finish, Foam, Formula, Gloss, Hard, Ingredient, Instant, Jars, Lace, Layers, Made, Matte, Medium, Paint, Sandpaper, Sealer, Sheer, Sparkle, Spray, Stain, Surfaces, Terra, Tins, Tint, Tissue, Varnish, Vase, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Neutral

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Lakers rally late in regulation, hold off Heat in OT

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Malik Monk scored five of his season-high 27 points in overtime, and the Los Angeles Lakers rallied from a big deficit in the final minutes of regulation before surging in overtime for a 120-117 victory over the Miami Heat on Wednesday night.

Russell Westbrook had 25 points, 14 assists and 12 rebounds for the Lakers, who improved to 2-2 while LeBron James is sidelined by a strained abdominal muscle.

Monk put on an impressive shooting display with four 3-pointers, and Anthony Davis had 24 points and 13 rebounds for Los Angeles. The Lakers trailed by nine in the fourth quarter before rallying to beat the Heat, who had won six of eight.

Bam Adebayo scored 28 points before fouling out and Kyle Lowry had 18 points and 11 assists for the Heat, who lost Jimmy Butler to a sprained right ankle in the first half. Butler scored seven points while playing the entire first quarter, but didn't return for the second.

Tyler Herro scored 27 points, but missed two 3-pointers in the final nine seconds of overtime in Miami's third loss in four games.

Herro also missed a 3 with 23 seconds left in regulation, but P.J. Tucker threw down a tying rebound dunk. Westbrook missed a jumper and Davis missed the tip at the buzzer, sending the Lakers to overtime for the second straight game.

Los Angeles jumped to a five-point lead in OT while Miami missed six of seven shots. Adebayo trimmed the lead to 119-117 with 23 seconds left before fouling out, and the Heat forced a five-second violation by the Lakers on the ensuing inbounds play—but Herro missed an off-balance 3-pointer.

Carmelo Anthony hit one of two free throws with 6.5 seconds left, and Herro missed again to end it.

Avery Bradley scored 17 points with a season-high five 3s for the Lakers.

Roughly 13 months after the Lakers beat the Heat in the 2020 NBA Finals in the Florida bubble, the Heat showed much more cohesion than the former champs until LA's stirring late rally. The Lakers have jettisoned all but three players from their title team—and of those three, only Davis was healthy for this meeting.

Miami's Markieff Morris sat out against his former team with whiplash stemming from his altercation with Denver's Nikola Jokic on Monday.

Warriors 123, Timberwolves 110

In San Francisco, Andrew Wiggins drove the baseline for an emphatic one-handed slam right over old teammate Karl-Anthony Towns, and it sure felt sweet. "That's my guy," Wiggins said, noting it was better coming against Towns. "Oh, for sure. He got me last year, so I got him back."

Wiggins had two dunks over Towns and dominated his former Timberwolves with a season-high 35 points, leading the Golden State Warriors to a 123-110 victory over Minnesota on Wednesday night.

"No, not a revenge game, a well-played game against a former team," Wiggins said. "A fun game. The game of basketball's fun. ... Facing your former team is always one you wake up excited for."

Anthony Edwards scored a career-high 48 points for Minnesota, hitting seven 3-pointers in the Timberwolves' sixth straight loss.

Wiggins, traded by Minnesota to Golden State in February 2020, made his initial 10 shots, scored 22 of his points on 9-for-9 shooting in the first half.

"Andrew was just fantastic, the aggression from the beginning of the game, loved his energy," coach Steve Kerr said. "Obviously he was pretty excited to play against his old team. We needed everything he brought us tonight."

Stephen Curry scored 25 points to go with six assists coming off a 50-point masterpiece Monday night against Atlanta. Jordan Poole had 14 points and five rebounds to help Golden State push its NBA-leading record to 10-1.

Kevon Looney added season-bests of 11 points and 17 rebounds, delivering on both ends on a night Draymond Green exited with a bruised right thigh. Green is listed as questionable for Friday's game with the Bulls.

"I thought Kevon Looney was just amazing. That's one of the toughest matchups in the league in Towns," Kerr said.

Edwards' 3-pointer with 5:59 left pulled the Timberwolves to 105-98, and longtime Warriors nemesis Patrick Beverley made it 105-100 before Looney's dunk with 4:04 remaining.

Minnesota's D'Angelo Russell had 18 points and seven assists against his former team.

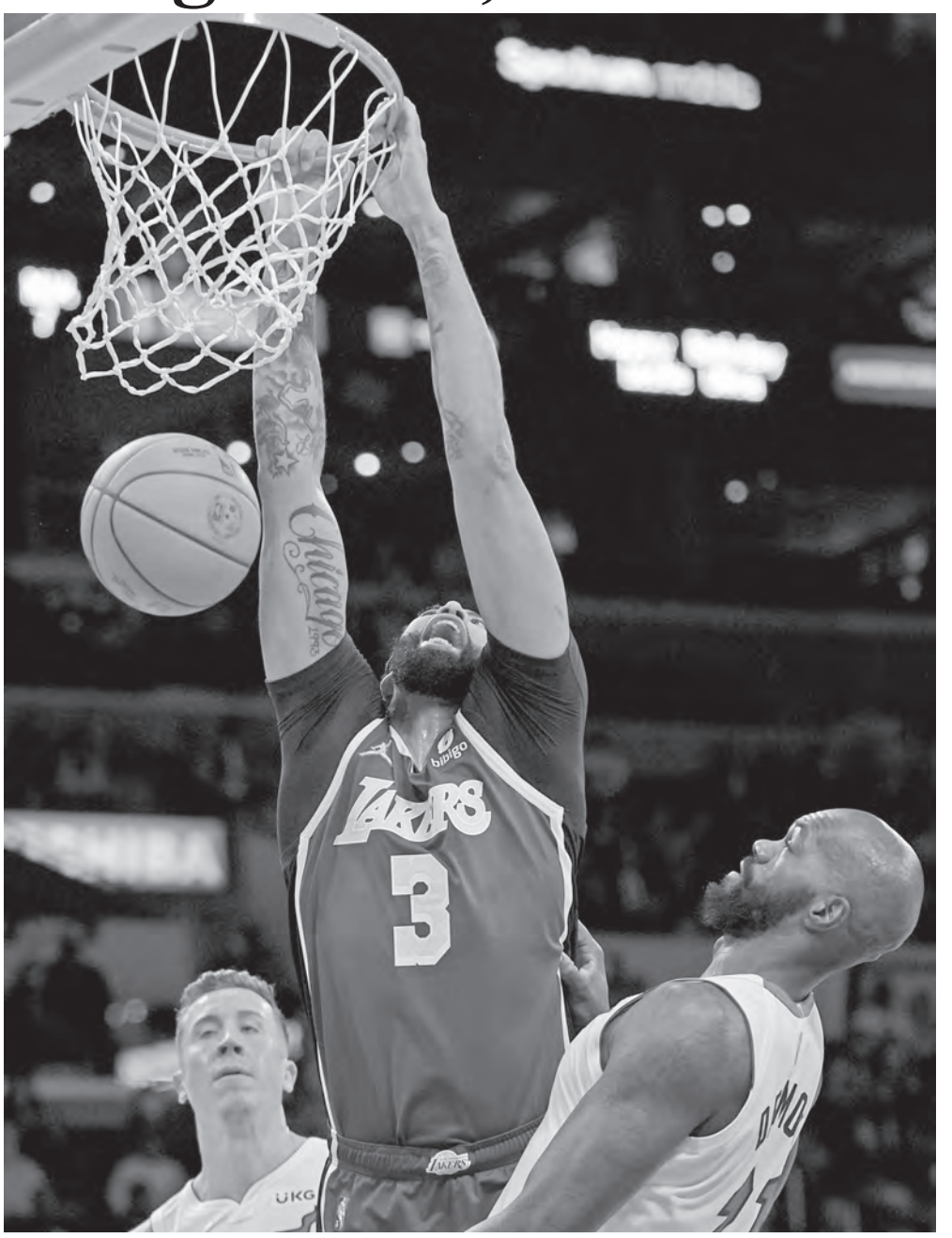
Nets 123, Magic 90

In Orlando, Fla., Kevin Durant scored 30 points and James Harden had his 59th career triple double in the Brooklyn Nets' 123-90 victory over the Orlando Magic on Wednesday night.

Durant, the NBA's leading scorer at 29.5 points per game, made 11 of 12 shots, including both of his 3-point attempts, to help Brooklyn win for the sixth time in seven games. Harden had 17 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists to help. The two stars sat out the fourth quarter, with the Nets up 94-75 after three.

LaMarcus Aldridge came off the bench with a big second quarter to put Brooklyn in command. He had 21 points and eight rebounds.

Terrence Ross led Orlando with 17 points.



Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis (3) dunks against Miami Heat guard Duncan Robinson (55) and center Dewayne Dedmon (21) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021. AP

Bucks 112, Knicks 100

In New York, Pat Connaughton scored a season-high 23 points, making three late 3-pointers to swing a wild second half back in Milwaukee's favor, and the Bucks blew a 24-point lead before beating New York.

Less than a week after the Knicks came from 21 down to win 113-98 at Milwaukee, the Bucks opened a 70-46 cushion midway through the third quarter. But the Knicks' reserves wiped that away and the game was tied with five minutes to play.

Jrue Holiday scored 18 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo had 15 points, 15 rebounds and eight assists for the Bucks. They won at Philadelphia on Tuesday night.

Derrick Rose had 22 points and seven assists for New York.

Suns 119, Trail Blazers 109

In Phoenix, Frank Kaminsky scored a career-high 31 points, Chris Paul added 21 and Phoenix beat Portland for its sixth straight victory.

The 7-foot Kaminsky continued a stellar stretch of play, making up for the recent absence of injured starter Deandre Ayton. Kaminsky has at least 10 points in four of the past five games and was at his best Wednesday, making 12 of 18 shots and grabbing seven rebounds.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 28 points.

Hornets 118, Grizzlies 108

In Memphis, Tenn., Kelly Oubre Jr. scored a season-best 37 points on 13-of-17 shooting and Charlotte beat Memphis to snap a five-game losing streak.

Oubre matched his career high with seven 3-points on nine attempts and broke the franchise record for points off the bench.

Gordon Hayward added 25 points for Charlotte. LaMelo Ball, who was coming off a triple-double of 25 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists Monday night in an overtime loss to the Los Angeles Lakers, fell just short of his second consecutive triple-double with 12 points, nine rebounds and eight assists.

Ja Morant led Memphis with 32 points, 19 of them in the first quarter, and eight assists.

Nuggets 101, Pacers 98

In Denver, Will Barton scored a season-high 30 points, helping to make up for the absence of suspended star Nikola Jokic, and Denver beat Indiana.

Jokic, the reigning NBA MVP, served a one-game suspension for his retaliatory late-game shove Monday night of Markieff Morris following the Miami player's hard foul to Jokic's midsection.

Malcolm Brogdon had 25 points for Indiana. Domantas Sabonis added 20 points and 19 rebounds.

Celtics 104, Raptors 88

In Boston, Jayson Tatum had 22 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists in Boston's victory over Toronto.

Robert Williams III added 16 points and 13 rebounds, with a career-best eight coming on the offensive glass. Dennis Schroder scored 20 points, Josh Richardson had 15 and Marcus Smart 13.

Scottie Barnes led Toronto with 21 points.

Bulls 117, Mavericks 107

In Chicago, Zach LaVine scored 23 points and Lonzo Ball made seven of Chicago's 15 3-pointers, helping the Bulls beat Dalla.

Nikola Vucevic added 18 points and 10 rebounds, and DeMar DeRozan finished with 17 points.

Kristaps Porzingis had 22 points and 12 rebounds for Dallas. Luka Doncic finished with 20 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds.

Wizards 97, Cavaliers 94

In Cleveland, Kyle Kuzma hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 12 seconds left and Washington scored the final five points to beat Cleveland.

Kuzma scored 12 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter, including two 3-pointers in the final 26 seconds. Montrezl Harrell led the Wizards with 24 points and 11 rebounds.

Ricky Rubio had 20 points for Cleveland.

Pistons 112, Rockets 104

In Houston, Jerami Grant scored a season-high 35 points to help Detroit beat Houston in a matchup of two of the worst teams in the NBA.

Detroit improved to 2-8, and Houston dropped to 1-10.

The meeting was the first between the top two picks in the July draft. Cade Cunningham, Detroit's choice as the No. 1 pick, had 20 points on 8-of-18 shooting. Houston's Jalen Green, the No. 2 pick, had 23 points on 8-of-20 shooting.

Spurs 136, Kings 117

In San Antonio, Dejounte Murray had 26 points and San Antonio never trailed, overcoming De'Aaron Fox's season-high 37 points in rolling past Sacramento.

San Antonio hit a season-high 18 3-pointers and snapped a three-game skid at the AT&T Center.

Sacramento has lost three straight and five of seven.

Thunder 108, Pelicans 100

In New Orleans, Lu Dort scored 27 points, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 24 points and Oklahoma City beat New Orleans for its third straight victory.

Nickeil Alexander-Walker had 33 points, and Jonas Valanciunas had 25 points and 15 rebounds for the NBA-worst Pelicans. They dropped to 1-11 with their eighth straight loss.

IT&E Cross Duathlon and North Trail Run postponed

Isaiah Aleksenko in action during the first tryouts for the CNMI national triathlon team for next year's Pacific Mini Games last Aug. 21 in Marpi. MARK RABAGO

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Triathlon Association of the CNMI has postponed the 6th IT&E Cross Duathlon and North Trail Run that was originally set this Sunday, Nov. 14, in Marpi.

"Due to the COVID-19 situation, the 6th IT&E Cross Duathlon and Trail Run set for Sunday is postponed indefinitely. A new date will be announced later," said TRAC in a social media message.

The IT&E Cross Duathlon was supposed to start at 6:30am with a 6-kilometer trail run (Last Command Post/Dumping/Banzai Trail/Banzai Cliff/Last Command Post). It was to be followed by a 12.5-km mountain bike race (Last Command Post/Ayuyu Drive/FEBC/Authobahn Trail/Santa Klaus/Banzai Trail/Banzai Cliff/Last Command Post), before ending with a 2.5-km pathway run from the Last Command Post.

The North Trail Run was supposed to be for individual runners only and the 10.5-km course will have them negotiate the North Trail Loop (Last Command Post/Pathway/Autobahn Trail/Santa Clause Trail/Banzai Trail-Cliff and back to Last Command Post).

Online registration is $10 for individual and $20 for a team consisting of two members only. There is a $2 processing fee for each registration.

TRAC said finisher medals and awards for top duathlon individual and North Trail Run winner will be awarded. There is also absolutely no race-day registration.

Proceeds from the 6th IT&E Cross Duathlon and Trail Run will go to TRAC's preparations for the triathlon event of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 and maintenance of the North Trails.

TRAC also reminding those vying for the national team that the next tryouts will be held on Nov. 27 starting 2:30pm at Paupau Beach. The tryout are open to triathletes who have met residency requirements and must have a U.S. passport.

CNMI off-island athletes must provide proof of participating in a sprint triathlon and by submitting official result in order to be considered for the team. The CNMI national team will be competing for Sprint Tri individual and Sprint Aquathlon (individual and mixed relay) in the Pacific Mini Games next year. For inquiries, email swimbikerun.saipan@gmail.com.

Revised injured reserve rules keeping NFL teams competitive

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—The day after making final roster cuts, the Tennessee Titans put three players on injured reserve.

And they haven't stopped.

Derrick Henry is just the biggest name in a revolving door that has seen the Titans make 19 moves putting players on injured reserve and play a NFL-high 80 different players—11 more than the next closest teams, Indianapolis and Carolina (69 apiece).

With Tennessee currently atop the AFC with a 7-2 record halfway through the season, general manager Jon Robinson doesn't even want to imagine how he would have managed his roster without the NFL's current injured reserve and expanded practice squad rules.

"I don't even want to go there mentally, I don't know if my brain could take it," Robinson said. "But I mean, it would be challenging, it would be tough. You would end up having to release some players, release healthy players in order to get positions that have injuries at those spots."

The Titans have plenty of company using the NFL rules first changed in 2020 for the coronavirus pandemic and retained for this season. According to Sportradar, 23 NFL teams have put at least 10 players on injured reserve at some point since the preseason, and every team has used at least 55 different players already.

Going on injured reserve in the NFL used to mean a player's season was over.

In 2012, the NFL allowed teams to designate one player to return, then doubled that in 2017. The coronavirus pandemic led to the biggest change yet: Allowing NFL teams to bring back an unlimited number of players from injured reserve, which was extended for this season.

Players must spend at least three games on injured reserve. That plus the expanded practice squad and the ability to promote a couple of practice squad players for games has essentially expanded the roster well beyond 53.

Whether the unlimited return rule, or the expanded practice squad, are kept will be decided in the next offseason.

"We will discuss future options for the rule with the relevant committees and the NFLPA after the season," NFL senior vice president of football and international communications Michael Signora said.

CNMI

From Page 24

our children, who want to be athletes one day. We want do this for our athletes, who train their whole lives to one day compete in this kind of event. We want to do it for our Marianas to showcase our culture in the Pacific," said Torres.

Next year's Mini Games, according to Peter, will be the first one to have the Athletes' Village in a hotel. Grandvrio Resort has been designated as the Athletes' Village, as the NMPMG 2022 Games Organizing Committee decided that, at this time of the pandemic, it would be safer and more convenient for everyone to be housed in a hotel instead of the traditional accommodations in schools. He also identified the venues for the nine sports with athletics to take place at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility; badminton at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium; baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield; beach volleyball at Crowne Plaza Resort on Saipan and Jones Beach on Tinian; golf at Coral Ocean Resort; tennis at the American Memorial Park and Pacific Islands Club courts; triathlon at the Marina Harbor on Rota; *va'a* at the 13 Fishermen Memorial Monument; and weightlifting at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The NMPMG Games Organizing Committee chair added that the Mini Games will operate under the COVID-19 safety guidelines, requiring only vaccinated athletes and officials to enter the CNMI and possibly undergo a five-day quarantine.

"Safety is our No. 1 priority. We will welcome you all with vaccinated arms and masks on," Peter said.

A chef de mission briefing will be held virtually on Dec. 17 with the NMPMG Games Organizing Committee providing the 21 countries that have confirmed their participation to the Mini Games more information on facilities, accommodations and transportation, vaccination, travel to Rota and Tinian; and arrival and departure dates.

Pleased with preparations

Meanwhile, PGC president Vidhya Lakhan of Fiji said they are pleased with the developments in the NMI's preparations for the Mini Games.

"We are pleased with the progress of the organizing committee and for making alternative arrangements and finding out how to get things done. We are also pleased to hear the support you are getting from your government," Lakhan said. "Continue the good work. We will see you on Saipan."

The PGC president said that they are planning to visit the CNMI next year to evaluate the facilities for the Mini Games and have further discussions on the COVID-19 protocols.

NMSA congratulates PGC officials, Tahiti

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, vice president Ray Tebuteb, general secretary Valerie Hofschneider, and executive director Carline Sablan also attended the Nov. 5 and 6 assembly that saw the election of the PGC Executive Board and selection of the new host for the 2027 Pacific Games.

"On behalf of the NMSA board, we would like to congratulate president Vidhya Lakhan and other officers of the PGC Executive Board. We look forward to continue working with you as the NMSA joins the region's efforts in promoting sports excellence and building stronger relationships among the Pacific nations," Tan said.

Lakhan ran for the PGC's top position unopposed along with vice president for marketing Diane Bui-Duyet of New Caledonia, VP for audit and finance Tamzin Wardley of Papua New Guinea, and Athletes' Representative Ryan Pini of PNG, while Nauru's Marcus Stephen was the victor over Tuvalu's Naibae Kitiseni for the VP for sport election.

Meanwhile, the NMSA also congratulated Tahiti, which won the bid for the hosting of the 2027 Pacific Games, defeating Vanuatu. It will be the third time that Tahiti will host the quadrennial event with the first one held in 1971 and the second in 1999. ***(PR)***

LORENZO

From Page 24

guys I helped compete," said Sanchez.

His win in the 2021 Dee Clayton was the fifth overall for Sanchez and he said he went to work preparing for the show as soon as he came back from California.

"Like my boss Derek Cutting said, if I don't have a goal, I get lazy. So about 6 or 7 weeks out, I started focusing for the show. I just shift the amount of carbs I consume here and there depending on how cut I was getting, and how full my muscles still were."

He also shared that like other gym rats, he struggled during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. "The first year was hard, but after it went back to almost normal."

Sanchez also sees himself as an artists with regards to his bodybuilding passion. "The benefits is the mental strength and the reason is to continue shaping my body as art, like an empty canvas, and I decide how I want to look. Also you get to see your body's potential before you leave this world."

Aside from Cutting, the men's classic physique champion also dedicated his victory to his girlfriend, Mary Joyce Masongsong, his parents, and his fellow competitors.

"I have learned a lot being with them. To my brother and fellow competitor, Leonardo Sanchez, for inspiring me to push hard as a sibling rivalry, and Jolo Buereco, John Jimeno, Jonas Okawa, as I help them prep, their dedication always reminded me to be motivated and push myself further. To Jun (Big Oos), to Derek Cutting who also been giving me advices every now and then, and to everyone else at Latte and Jun Lagmay, thank you," he said.

Going back to Sandow, Sanchez said his handlebar moustache during the Dee Clayton Classic was an homage to him.

"It is a tribute to the father of bodybuilding in the late 1800s. They named the Mr. Olympia trophy after him."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	8	4	.667	—
Philadelphia	8	4	.667	—
New York	7	5	.583	1
Toronto	6	6	.500	2
Boston	5	6	.455	2½

Southeast Division

Washington	8	3	.727	—
Miami	7	4	.636	1
Charlotte	6	7	.462	3
Atlanta	4	8	.333	4½
Orlando	3	9	.250	5½

Central Division

Chicago	8	3	.727	—
Cleveland	7	5	.583	1½
Milwaukee	6	6	.500	2½
Indiana	4	8	.333	4½
Detroit	2	8	.200	5½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	7	4	.636	—
Memphis	6	5	.545	1
San Antonio	4	7	.364	3
Houston	1	10	.091	6
New Orleans	1	11	.083	6½

Northwest Division

Utah	8	3	.727	—
Denver	7	4	.636	1
Portland	5	7	.417	3½
Oklahoma City	4	6	.400	3½
Minnesota	3	7	.300	4½

Pacific Division

Golden State	10	1	.909	—
Phoenix	7	3	.700	2½
L.A. Clippers	6	4	.600	3½
L.A. Lakers	7	5	.583	3½
Sacramento	5	7	.417	5½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ONOC recognizes passion of sports representatives

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

While the CNMI has a lot of "homework" to do when it comes to getting ready for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, an Oceania National Olympic Committees official said he does see the passion from representatives of the nine sports offered in the quadrennial event set from June 17 to 25, 2022.

"We have a lot of homework. That's the initial assessment on the first week and that's from the national federations side. But what's really driving and motivating me is to see how inspired the national federations are to have this Mini Games. They're turning up to meetings after hours," said ONOC chief information technology officer Sitiveni Tawakevou.

Case in point was a meeting they held last Nov. 1 where sports managers of the national federations attended despite a local superstition that people who don't visit their loved ones' graves on All Saints' Day risk being visited by the spirits of their dear departed.

"Yesterday (Nov. 1) was the most important day to some people's lives. They might be visited by their loved ones who've moved on. But they turned up to the meeting. For us, it's assuring this demonstration of commitment that's important. They've shown commitment to their own sport and commitment to their community," said Tawakevou.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association executive director Carli Sablan admitted she actually had second thoughts about attending the All Saints' Day meeting.

"We had a meeting yesterday for all sports managers—of all days when everyone was in the cemetery. So, I said if I get a visit from my dad tonight it's because all of these guys agreed to meet today," she said.

Tawakevou added now that he sees enthusiasm from the local federations, the next order of business is to sustain their motivation. And that's where putting into place frameworks that could help them succeed come in.

"The homework we need to do is to actively establish links with international federations. They already have but we now need to move into a second level of interaction so that we could get our draws approved, our schedules approved, will get a lot of things approved. And then the next level of approval is to approve venues. That this venue is marked properly and marked to standards. So that's the last level of approval for us," he said.

The ONOC official also said he's quite impressed with the CNMI's internet connectivity following a meeting with IT&E and Docomo Pacific.

"We're very happy that all the network is very new and is fiber and is world standard. The speed is what some other countries don't enjoy. Also continuity with redundancy and backup so the [Mini] Games coverage will continue and ensures connectivity will go on."

Representatives of the national federations that took part in the Nov. 1 meeting acknowledged that the ball is in their court now with regards to preparing for next year's Mini Games.

Oceania National Olympic Committees chief information technology officer Sitiveni Tawakevou said he likes the passion showed by leaders of the sports being offered in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022. MARK RABAGO

"It basically rehashed what NMSA and the Mini Games organizing committee had national federations do a few months back. But now it seems like the national federations need to push and accomplish a few critical items soon. For *va'a*, it's pretty much the event schedule and assigning people to critical posts like the sports manager, etc. It also includes our procurement list of what we will need to run the *va'a* races. We have started on this months ago but much work still need to be done," said Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation president Justin Andrew.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association board member Lydia Tan said she took a lot of pointers from the meeting.

"It's informative in preparation for the Pacific Mini Games for tennis. I've learned what are the roles of sports manager and guidelines for the role. It's a lot to do and with the support of the international federation and guidance, we'll get there. It's a little overwhelming at the moment!" she said.

Northern Marianas Islands Volleyball Association president Somia Qua seconded what Tan said.

"Sports managers play a huge role in coordination and liaising with various organizations (Oceania federation, national federations, organizing committee, broadcasting, etc... even government agencies). They ensure that the sport and Games run smoothly. There's a lot of work to do as the sports manager. The meeting yesterday was just the first. They will be calling weekly meetings to ensure that all federations are moving with their planning and organizing," she said.

BOB

From Page 24

Coldeen began his sportscasting career in 1993 after he joined Marianas Cable Vision, but unbeknownst to many he was recruited a full year before that.

"MCV started in 1992 and I've always been the announcer for the baseball games. So they hear and they always know me as the announcer. So when they started MCV I was the first person they asked, but I had one more year to go to qualify for government retirement," he said.

At that time, Coldeen was still working as the staff-of-one of then representative Stanley Torres, but in 1993 he finally retired from government service and traded in his suit and tie for a sports cap.

Being a sportscaster in the early 1990s was like a dream come true for the University of Florida alumnus.

"Those were really exciting days for sports because there was a lot of money coming in. There was a lot of excitement. Japanese professional baseball teams were coming in. Larry Hillblom invested $1 million into MCV. Those were heady days and everybody was like 'oh, the future is going to be great,'" he said.

The party went on until the mid-2000s when the garment factories were shuttered, Japan Air Lines left, and then everything started going down including sports.

"Sports is just a microcosm of a larger society. There also a lot more people then and I'm sorry the quality of play back then was better. Our baseball was excellent and the basketball games inside the Ada Gym were packed. There were so much excitement," he said.

Bob Coldeen inside his sports- and Hollywood-theme mancaves at his Navy Hill home. MARK RABAGO

Coldeen added that baseball was at its highest level back then with the likes of Tony Benavente, Tony Camacho, Chris Nelson, Mike "Rock" Guerrero, and John Reyes dominating the field. He said the CNMI's Little League teams were also contending every year in regionals and even made it to the World Series.

During those years, Coldeen was not only busy covering sports, as he also served as manager for many Little League teams and to this day, he attests that those stints were his most memorable moments in sports.

"Going off-island and winning a tournament with your CNMI team is my proudest moment. We won tournaments in Guam, Palau, and in the Philippines and those were big. You're with a team and it's like everybody's against you and so winning in some other's home field was special," he said.

While nothing tops taking the CNMI Junior League Allstars to the World Series, Coldeen also counts watching the sunrise at Banzai Cliff during fun runs, waking up at 6am on Thanksgiving morning to go up to Mt. Tapochao for the Turkey Trot, and covering golf tournaments as the other highlights of his sportscasting career.

Apart from the highs, he also admitted there were some lows during his nearly 30-year career in journalism. One such low was when he covered the basketball game when Jeremy Winkfield broke his foot after he was fouled while attempting a dunk.

"I put the camera down and missed it (the footage)," he said while conceding that's probably the only time he was glad "he didn't get it" in respect to Winkfield's parents.

There was also the time when someone complained that he featured his son, Bobby, in one of his evening sports broadcasts.

"Someone got mad at me for putting my son on TV. My son had pitched a no-hitter and he was like 'you always put your son on.' I was only showing the good thing and he was an all-star so why not. That's the 'it's not you, it's them,'" Coldeen said while alluding to a KSPN newsroom mantra.

Now that he's called it a career, Coldeen will have more Saipan sunsets to enjoy with his lovely wife, Martha, at the terrace of their lovely Navy Hill home.

"How many times you go home at 10 o'clock or you get up on Sunday morning at 6 o'clock to go cover something. So she's very tolerant of being married to a sportscaster. I'm very happy to have a family, a home, and a career."

Come to think of it, Coldeen said since leaving KSPN it's the first time has hasn't had a job in over 50 years.

"I'm excited. I went 54 consecutive years of not being jobless and the last time I filled out a job application was 1988 when I applied at PSS. So every other job after 1988 was somebody asking and so I never asked for anything. So, it's going to be a big mental shock. Ask me what my plans are I'm going to watch the World Series and after that game is over ask me what I'm going to do I don't know…I'll probably mow the yard or whatever."

In a serious note, Coldeen said his plans are to enjoy each day with family and friends now that he's finally retired.

"I threw myself totally into sportscasting and I totally enjoyed it. So I was able to do that for a long time at a very high level of passion… But Cuki [Alvarez] said something, 'you make it look easy but it's not easy.' And it's all because of your aptitude. You ask me to draw something. I can't draw anything…then you do something excellent for 28 years… then it's just time!"

Lakers rally late in regulation, hold off Heat in OT

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune
Sports

ONOC recognizes passion of sports representatives

PAGE 23

Bob Coldeen: It was time

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

"It was time."

Longtime KSPN sportscaster Bob Coldeen nonchalantly said when asked why he put down the recording camera one final time last Oct. 29 after nearly three decades of being the face of local broadcast TV.

Along the way, the now 70-year-old former Peace Corp volunteer, Rota High School teacher, and PSS federal programs coordinator became a household name with his own catch phrase "Did you get that, Bob?"

"You do a thing 28 years in a row, you know, it was just time," he said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* at his picturesque Navy Hill home.

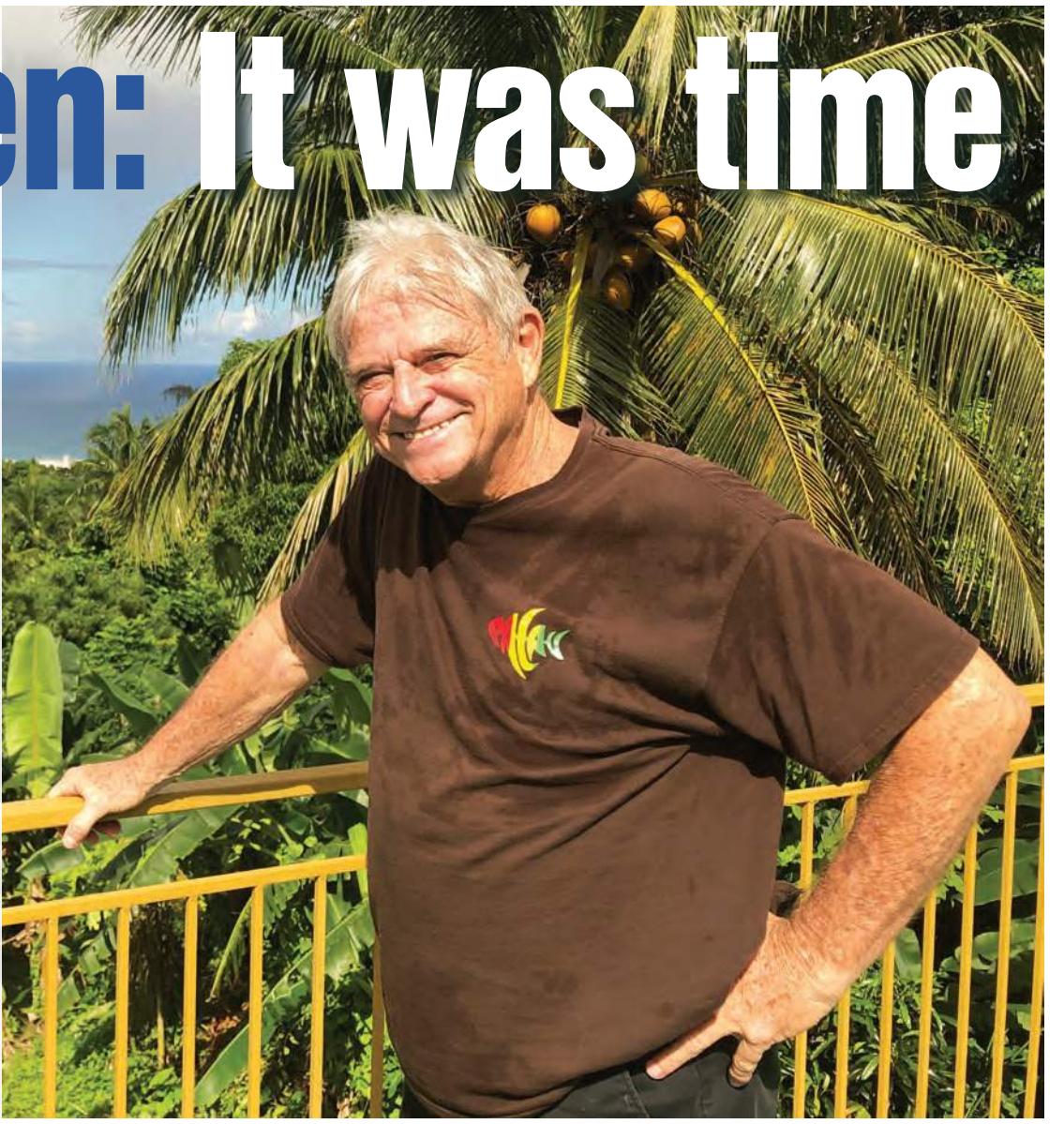
Coldeen said he's excited but at the same time has no clue what to do next.

"It's a new chapter and the first page is blank. After this interview I'm going to watch the World Series between the Atlanta Braves and the Houston Astro," he said.

And he choose the right time to call it quits, as the weekend after he retired from covering sports, all events were, for all intents and purposes, cancelled on account of a reemergence of COVID-19 community cases.

"You have to understand, I went 120 consecutive Mondays with a show, meaning I went 120 weekends stressing what to do. Like this last weekend with so many stuff postponed whatever, I'd be stressing what to do tonight," he said.

See BOB on Page 23



Retired KSPN sportscaster Bob Coldeen poses at the terrace of his lovely Navy Hill home with a postcard perfect view of the Saipan lagoon. MARK RABAGO

Lorenzo Sanchez wins classic physique

Lorenzo Sanchez won the men's classic physique category in the 2021 Dee Clayton Classic last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort. MICHAEL JORNAL

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Lorenzo Sanchez channeled his inner Eugene Sandow en route to winning the men's classic physique category in the 2021 Dee Clayton Classic last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

Brandishing Sandow's trademark handlebar moustache, the 25-year-old personal trainer at Latte Built 24-Hour Gym received 8 points from judges Jonas Barcinas, Dan Chase, and Ferdinand Lagmay to beat Jolo Berueco and brother Leonardo, who both got 5 points each.

"My mind was total Zen. I was expecting the worse and willing to accept the loss. The win was a reminder that I still have a lot of things to improve on. I was actually expecting my brother or Jolo to beat me for they do have a little more mass and V taper. But it is what it is and I'm glad to stand with the

See LORENZO on Page 22

CNMI presents Mini Games updates

In this screen grab, Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter and Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, top right corner, attend Day 1 of the virtual 2021 Pacific Games Council General Assembly held last Friday, Nov 5. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter provides participants in last Saturday's virtual 2021 Pacific Games Council General Assembly updates about the CNMI's preparations for next year's regional competition. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NORTHERN MARIANAS PACIFIC MINI GAMES 2022

The CNMI provided updates on the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 preparations during the virtual 2021 Pacific Games Council General Assembly last Saturday.

NMPMG 2022 Games Organizing Committee chair Marco Peter presented the updates, including safety measures that the CNMI will be implementing for the Mini Games to be held from June 17 to 25. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres also addressed the assembly, reiterating the NMI's commitment to hosting a successful competition.

Torres noted how the islands' facilities sustained damage from Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018, making it tough for the CNMI to host a big event such as the NMPMG 2022. Then came the COVID-19 pandemic last year, making it even more challenging to bring the Mini Games here for the first time.

"However, we are resilient people. We want to hold the Pacific Mini Games, do it for

See CNMI on Page 22